

**SARA K. HEDGES**

**PERSONAL**

Address: Not Provided

Contact: Phone: Not Provided  
Email: [REDACTED]

**EDUCATION**

Juris Doctor *Cum Laude*  
Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law - Macon, GA (2012)

Bachelor of Arts - Political Science *Summa Cum Laude*  
Florida State University - Tallahassee, FL (2009)

**SUMMARY OF RELATED EXPERIENCE**

2021 - Present	<u>CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA</u> Population 47,927
2003 - Now	Interim City Attorney
2023 - Now	Senior Assistant City Attorney
2021 - 2023	Assistant City Attorney
2012 - 2021	<u>STATE OF FLORIDA; 19<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT</u> Assistant State Attorney

August 12, 2023

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission  
c/o Mr. Robert E. Slavin  
100 North US 1  
Fort Pierce, FL 34950

Dear Mayor Hudson and Members of the City Commission:

Please allow this letter to serve as my formal application for the position of City Attorney for the City of Fort Pierce. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the City since 2021. Since joining the City Attorney's Office, I have served as the Assistant City Attorney, the Senior Assistant City Attorney, and as the current Interim City Attorney.

Prior to my employment with the City, I served as an Assistant State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida. This afforded me the opportunity to actually serve Fort Pierce long before my current employment. For approximately a decade, my sole practice as an attorney has been in Fort Pierce.

My experience in the City Attorney's Office affords me with the unique knowledge of how the Office runs and what is needed to continue to build upon the Office's successes, productivity, and efficiency. I look forward to all of the opportunities ahead for the growth, development, and prosperity of the City, its residents, and its businesses. I hope to continue to be a part of the bright future ahead for the Sunrise City by continuing to provide excellent legal service for years to come.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sara K. Hedges

# SARA HEDGES

Esquire

Admitted to Florida Bar: September 2012

## Juris Doctor

Mercer University,  
Walter F. George School of Law  
Graduated: 2012, *Cum Laude*  
GPA: 88.742  
Class Rank: 29/139

## Bachelor of Science

Florida State University  
Graduated: 2009, *Summa Cum Laude*  
Political Science Major: 3.9 GPA  
Sociology Major: 4.0 GPA

## HONORS & ACTIVITIES

### Mercer University

- Mercer Law Review Member (F2011-2012)
- Dean's List (F2010, S2011, F2011)
- Mock Trial Board of Mercer Advocacy Council (S2012)
  - National Trial Competition, Memphis Regional Participant
- Advanced Legal Research CALI Excellence for the Future Award (F2011)
- Intrасchool Mock Trial Competition Participant (F2010, F2011)
- Association of Women Law Students (F2010 - S2012)
  - Outlining Seminar Panelist (F2011)

### Florida State University

- President's List (F2006, S2006, F2008)
- Dean's List (F2005, S2006, S2007)
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars (2006-2009)
- Golden Key International Honour Society (2007-2009)
- Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity (2007-2009)
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (2008-2009)

### Community Activities

- Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake
- Annual Charity Volleyball Tournament for Juvenile Diabetes

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### City Attorney's Office

City of Fort Pierce

Interim City Attorney: July 2023 - Present

Senior Assistant City Attorney: May 2023 - Present

Assistant City Attorney: December 2021 - May 2023

- Advise and Provide Legal Opinions to City Officials and Staff on Federal, State, and Local Laws
- Legal Areas of Practice Include: Public Record and Sunshine Laws, Civil Litigation, Finance, Real Estate, Engineering, Construction, Labor Relations, Planning and Zoning, Animal Control, Code Enforcement, Grants, Environmental Regulations, and Law Enforcement Matters
- Draft and Review Ordinances and Resolutions
- Draft and Review Contracts
- Represent the City in Special Magistrate Hearings
- Police Legal Advisor Responsibilities: Risk Protection Orders, Civil Forfeiture Litigation, and Training
- Civil Litigation Responsibilities: Drafting Complaints, Petitions, Answers, and Motions
- Legal Advisor to City Boards and Committees
- Conduct Open Government Trainings

### State Attorney's Office

19th Judicial Circuit of Florida

Assistant State Attorney: October 2012 - December 2021

- Over 80 Jury Trials
- Felony Prosecutor of Offenses Including: Murder, Child Abuse, Burglary, Robbery, and DUI Manslaughter
- Responsibilities: Filing Decisions, Motion Practice, Plea Negotiations, Jury and Non-Jury Trials, Violations of Probation, and Appellate Proceedings

**CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA  
CITY ATTORNEY  
SEMI FINALIST CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Name: Sara Hedges

Home Address:

Home/Work/Cell phone numbers: 772-467-3046

E-mail address:

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1. Why are you interested in becoming Fort Pierce's next City Attorney and how does this position fit into your overall career plans?
  - a. I am proud to say I have been employed by the City of Fort Pierce since 2021. I have dedicated my career to public service and hope to continue to serve the public as the City Attorney.
2. What is the largest number of employees that you have managed and where? What is the largest annual operating budget that you have managed?
  - a. As the Interim City Attorney, I currently supervise three employees in the City Attorney's Office. The City Attorney's Office is currently staffed with myself and a paralegal, who reports directly to me. The Risk Management Department, consisting of two employees, also reports to the City Attorney. The current operating budget for the City Attorney's Office is approximately \$800,000.00.
3. How do you stay professionally current and on top of issues with the potential for significant impact on your jurisdiction? How do ensure that your employees stay current?
  - a. I have attended multiple continuing legal education (CLE) seminars while employed with the City Attorney's Office. This affords me the opportunity to stay current on any new legal developments. I have also worked to build contacts with other local government attorneys, to include those here on the Treasure Coast. I also receive list serve updates through associations for municipal attorneys and police legal advisers. As for those working in the City Attorney's Office, legal concepts are discussed as applicable to situations that arise. When relevant seminars, trainings, or certifications are available, employees are encouraged and permitted to attend to ensure the City of Fort Pierce has the best trained staff possible, while also being mindful of budgetary and policy restrictions.
4. Describe your leadership and management style with your employees.
  - a. In a professional office, I believe employees should be assigned tasks commensurate with their abilities, while also working to improve their abilities and skills even further. I believe and expect the professionals in my office can be assigned a task and be able to execute that task, correctly and timely, without constant oversight. If an employee falls below the expectations and requirements of their position, such will be handled according to applicable rules and policies.

- b. I believe it is my job as the leader to keep myself open for all questions, concerns, and ideas. I prefer a collaborative effort with my office. I see us as a team. I have encouraged my employees to come to me to discuss any questions, concerns, or ideas they have. I have kept and will continue to keep myself open to suggestions from within the office on how we can effectively and efficiently operate to represent the City of Fort Pierce. While the final say on how the office runs rests with me, I feel that the office runs more efficiently when everyone's ideas are heard, discussed, and considered.
- 5. Have you ever worked directly for a policy making body?
  - a. Yes, with the City of Fort Pierce.
- 6. Are you a member in good standing of the Florida Bar?
  - a. Yes, since 2012.
- 7. Describe your workload tolerance.... what type of office hours do you typically keep?
  - a. As the Assistant City Attorney and as the Interim City Attorney, I have found the typical 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday hours do not apply. Throughout my time with the City of Fort Pierce, I have worked early mornings, late evenings, nights, and weekends when the workload demands. I have made myself available at all hours of the day and night for any issues requiring my attention. I will continue to do so as the City Attorney.
- 8. What would you hope to accomplish the first 30 days on the job; the first 6 months; and the first year?
  - a. Within the first thirty days, I will seek to replace the Assistant City Attorney position so that the office can run at full staff. I will continue to evaluate the current flow and efficiency of the office. When I first became the Interim City Attorney, I met with my staff to discuss how the office currently runs, any suggestions for improvement they had, and minor changes I wanted implemented. As I have evaluated since taking over, I will continue to do so for any long-term changes needed to improve the office.
  - b. Within the first six months, I would like to have the City Attorney's Office fully staffed and trained. I would seek to implement any policies needed to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the office, monitor those changes, and evaluate their viability.
  - c. Within the first year, I would like to see the implementation of any policies determined to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the office.
- 9. What experience do you have with organizational and/or performance analysis directed at identifying issues in need of change?
  - a. Since beginning with the City Attorney's Office, I have sought to identify areas in which this office and the City as whole could improve. The City Attorney's Office began using electronic Requests for Legal Services (RLS) under the previous City Attorney, which has allowed us to receive, process, and return an RLS much more quickly than before. This is an ongoing analysis to continue to improve

efficiency. I have worked with the Fort Pierce Police Department on multiple issues to streamline communication and effective legal representation. For example, I have worked to make sure legal process is properly served and tracked for all civil litigation matters. On day one of being the Interim City Attorney, I began working to identify issues in need of change, in addition to those I had previously identified. I will continue to do so as the City Attorney and implement any necessary changes to improve the office.

10. Please describe your experience in dealing with intergovernmental entities. Specifically, how do you work with the City Manager and other sections/branches of the City government while maintaining your independence?

- a. The City of Fort Pierce is structured so that the three Charter Officers, the City Attorney, the City Clerk, and the City Manager, are all separate and distinct. The Charter Officers hold equal status within the City. All three must work together in a mutually respectful manner to accomplish the common goals of the City. There will be times, however, when not all will agree. Having the ability to explain one's position in a respectful manner is imperative to proper functioning of the City. As the City Attorney, the obligation is ultimately to the City. While I will seek to continue a cooperative working relationship with the other Charter Officers, my obligations to the City and my obligations as the City Attorney will always take priority.

11. Tell us how you communicate with your governing body and its individual members.

- a. I believe in direct, open, and honest communication. I have strived to provide a clear analysis of my legal positions to the City Commission. I see the role of the City Attorney as providing all legal options to the City Commission so that an informed, legally correct decision can be made. That is what I have strived to do and will continue to do as the City Attorney.

12. How would you handle situations where the Commissioners wish to take actions that you do not consider lawful?

- a. If such a situation were to ever occur, I would clearly communicate the legality and illegality of all options. I would follow my ethical obligations as an attorney.

13. How would you handle questions of law, including issues relating to public safety, that may be viewed differently by an ethnically and economically diverse community and Commission?

- a. I have sought to make myself available for any and all issues facing the Fort Pierce Police Department that may require legal assistance. I have provided legal updates, analysis, and training whenever requested. By following the law and performing duties constitutionally, liability faced by the City is reduced. I will continue to strive for such a reduction as the City Attorney.

14. Please provide a copy of a legal opinion that you have authored. (You may provide a redacted copy.)

15. Have you ever been found to have committed any acts of discrimination, sexual harassment, or creation a hostile work environment? If so, please explain.

- a. No.
16. Do you have any unusual personal consideration(s) that would need to be resolved before you could accept this position? If so, please explain.
- a. No.
17. Should you become a finalist candidate, we will perform education, credit, civil, criminal and motor vehicle court records, internet search and reference checks on you. In doing so, will we find anything that you need to explain in advance?
- a. No.
18. Is the resume you submitted accurate and current? If not, please explain any discrepancies.
- a. Yes.
19. Are you currently employed?
- a. Yes.
20. Have you ever been fired or resigned under pressure from a job? If so, please explain.
- a. No.
21. Have you ever sued an employer or been sued by an employer or employee? If so, please explain.
- a. No.
22. What are your compensation expectations?
- a. Negotiable.



TO: MERYLEE CASTELLANOS, RECORDS SUPERVISOR

FROM: SARA HEDGES, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY *SH*

THROUGH: TANYA EARLEY, CITY ATTORNEY *TE*

RE: PUBLIC RECORDS CHANGES TO SECTIONS 316.066 AND 316.650, FLORIDA STATUTES,  
TRAFFIC CRASHES AND TRAFFIC CITATIONS

CAO RLS FILE: 23-91

DATE: APRIL 24, 2023

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As previously discussed, Senate Bill 1614 (2022) amended F.S. 316.066, relating to Crash Reports and F.S. 316.650, relating to Traffic Citations. **Effective March 1, 2023**, these statutes have been amended as explained below as it relates to the release of Crash Reports and Traffic Citations pursuant to a public records request. Most significantly, Crash Reports no longer become public record 60 days after they are filed. I have uploaded a newly drafted Sworn Statement to Obtain Traffic Crash Report based on the amendments to F.S. 316.650. It is approved as to form and correctness and may be utilized at this point in time. It should replace any prior versions being used. Please note that while I know another draft of the Sworn Statement to Obtain Traffic Crash Report is being worked on to shorten it in form, such version is not yet approved as to form and correctness. The Sworn Statement to Obtain Traffic Crash Report must be filled out for **each** individual Crash Report before it is released.

#### **F.S. 316.066 – CRASH REPORTS**

##### **Before a Crash Report is permitted to be released to any requestor, they must:**

- Provide a valid driver license or other photographic identification, proof of status, or identification that demonstrates his or her qualifications to access the Crash Report, **and**
- File a written sworn statement stating that information from a Crash Report made confidential and exempt by this section will not be used for any commercial solicitation of accident victims or knowingly disclosed to any third party for the purpose of such solicitation.

Within the first 60 days, **unredacted\*** Crash Reports may **only** be provided to the following:

- The parties involved in the crash.
- The legal representatives of parties involved in the crash.
- The parties' licensed insurance agents.

- The parties' insurance companies or insurance companies of which the parties have applied for coverage.
- Persons under contract with the parties' insurance companies to provide claims or underwriting information.
- Victim services programs.
- Any federal, state, or local governmental agency or any private person or entity acting on behalf of such agency in carrying out its functions, but not for redistribution to any person or entity not listed above.
- Any third party acting on behalf of any of the above-listed persons or entities, provided that they only disclose the crash report to the person or entity on whose behalf they have sought the Crash Report.

Within the first 60 days, **redacted** Crash Reports may be provided to the following:

- FCC licensed radio and television stations and newspapers qualified to publish legal notices pursuant to F.S. 50.011 and F.S. 50.301. The involved parties' home or employment address, driver's license or ID card numbers, date of births, and home and employment telephone numbers are **required** to be redacted from the Crash Report.

After 60 days, **unredacted\*** reports may be provided to:

- All persons and entities listed above.
- In accordance with the Driver Privacy Protection Act ("DPPA"), 18 U.S.C. 2721(b) and (c), attached as Attachment A.

### **F.S. 316.650 – TRAFFIC CITATIONS**

All "driver information" contained in a uniform traffic citation is now considered **exempt** from public record dissemination. "Driver information" is defined as a date of birth, driver's license or identification card number, address (excluding the zip code), telephone number, motor vehicle license plate number, and trailer tag number. An agency may release driver information in accordance with any of the permissible uses listed in 18 U.S.C. 2721(b) in the same manner applicable to the release of personal information contained in a motor vehicle record pursuant to F.S. 119.0712(2)(b) and pursuant to the resale and redisclosure requirements in 18 U.S.C. 2721(c).

### **ATTACHMENTS TO MEMORANDUM**

- Attachment A – Driver Privacy Protection Act (DPPA), 18 U.S.C. 2721
- Attachment B – Bill Text with strikethrough and underline changes to the statutes
- Attachment C – Florida Senate Legislative Summary of the Bill

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this Office via phone or e-mail.

Thank you.

SH/mm

cc: Nicholas Mimms, City Manager  
Linda Cox, City Clerk

## ATTACHMENT A

§ 2721. Prohibition on release and use of certain personal..., 18 USCA § 2721

United States Code Annotated

Title 18. Crimes and Criminal Procedure (Refs & Annos)

Part I. Crimes (Refs & Annos)

Chapter 123. Prohibition on Release and Use of Certain Personal Information from State Motor Vehicle Records

18 U.S.C.A. § 2721

§ 2721. Prohibition on release and use of certain personal information from State motor vehicle records

Effective: October 23, 2000

Currentness

**(a) In general.**--A State department of motor vehicles, and any officer, employee, or contractor thereof, shall not knowingly disclose or otherwise make available to any person or entity:

(1) personal information, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(3), about any individual obtained by the department in connection with a motor vehicle record, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section; or

(2) highly restricted personal information, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(4), about any individual obtained by the department in connection with a motor vehicle record, without the express consent of the person to whom such information applies, except uses permitted in subsections (b)(1), (b)(4), (b)(6), and (b)(9): *Provided*, That subsection (a)(2) shall not in any way affect the use of organ donation information on an individual's driver's license or affect the administration of organ donation initiatives in the States.

**(b) Permissible uses.**--Personal information referred to in subsection (a) shall be disclosed for use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft, motor vehicle emissions, motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories, performance monitoring of motor vehicles and dealers by motor vehicle manufacturers, and removal of non-owner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers to carry out the purposes of titles I and IV of the Anti Car Theft Act of 1992, the Automobile Information Disclosure Act (15 U.S.C. 1231 *et seq.*), the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*), and chapters 301, 305, and 321-331 of title 49, and, subject to subsection (a)(2), may be disclosed as follows:

(1) For use by any government agency, including any court or law enforcement agency, in carrying out its functions, or any private person or entity acting on behalf of a Federal, State, or local agency in carrying out its functions.

(2) For use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft; motor vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories; performance monitoring of motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts and dealers; motor vehicle market research activities, including survey research; and removal of non-owner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers.

(3) For use in the normal course of business by a legitimate business or its agents, employees, or contractors, but only--

- (A) to verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by the individual to the business or its agents, employees, or contractors; and
- (B) if such information as so submitted is not correct or is no longer correct, to obtain the correct information, but only for the purposes of preventing fraud by, pursuing legal remedies against, or recovering on a debt or security interest against, the individual.
- (4) For use in connection with any civil, criminal, administrative, or arbitral proceeding in any Federal, State, or local court or agency or before any self-regulatory body, including the service of process, investigation in anticipation of litigation, and the execution or enforcement of judgments and orders, or pursuant to an order of a Federal, State, or local court.
- (5) For use in research activities, and for use in producing statistical reports, so long as the personal information is not published, redisclosed, or used to contact individuals.
- (6) For use by any insurer or insurance support organization, or by a self-insured entity, or its agents, employees, or contractors, in connection with claims investigation activities, antifraud activities, rating or underwriting.
- (7) For use in providing notice to the owners of towed or impounded vehicles.
- (8) For use by any licensed private investigative agency or licensed security service for any purpose permitted under this subsection.
- (9) For use by an employer or its agent or insurer to obtain or verify information relating to a holder of a commercial driver's license that is required under chapter 313 of title 49.
- (10) For use in connection with the operation of private toll transportation facilities.
- (11) For any other use in response to requests for individual motor vehicle records if the State has obtained the express consent of the person to whom such personal information pertains.
- (12) For bulk distribution for surveys, marketing or solicitations if the State has obtained the express consent of the person to whom such personal information pertains.
- (13) For use by any requester, if the requester demonstrates it has obtained the written consent of the individual to whom the information pertains.
- (14) For any other use specifically authorized under the law of the State that holds the record, if such use is related to the operation of a motor vehicle or public safety.

**(c) Resale or redisclosure.**--An authorized recipient of personal information (except a recipient under subsection (b)(11) or (12)) may resell or redisclose the information only for a use permitted under subsection (b) (but not for uses under subsection (b) (11) or (12)). An authorized recipient under subsection (b)(11) may resell or redisclose personal information for any purpose. An authorized recipient under subsection (b)(12) may resell or redisclose personal information pursuant to subsection (b)(12). Any authorized recipient (except a recipient under subsection (b)(11)) that resells or rediscloses personal information covered by this chapter must keep for a period of 5 years records identifying each person or entity that receives information and the permitted purpose for which the information will be used and must make such records available to the motor vehicle department upon request.

**(d) Waiver procedures.**--A State motor vehicle department may establish and carry out procedures under which the department or its agents, upon receiving a request for personal information that does not fall within one of the exceptions in subsection (b), may mail a copy of the request to the individual about whom the information was requested, informing such individual of the request, together with a statement to the effect that the information will not be released unless the individual waives such individual's right to privacy under this section.

**(e) Prohibition on conditions.**--No State may condition or burden in any way the issuance of an individual's motor vehicle record as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2725(1) to obtain express consent. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit a State from charging an administrative fee for issuance of a motor vehicle record.

#### CREDIT(S)

(Added Pub.L. 103-322, Title XXX, § 300002(a), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2099; amended Pub.L. 104-287, § 1, Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3388; Pub.L. 104-294, Title VI, § 604(b)(46), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3509; Pub.L. 106-69, Title III, § 350(c), (d), Oct. 9, 1999, 113 Stat. 1025; Pub.L. 106-346, § 101(a) [Title III, § 309(c) to (e)], Oct. 23, 2000, 114 Stat. 1356, 1356A-24.)

18 U.S.C.A. § 2721, 18 USCA § 2721

Current through P.L. 117-262. Some statute sections may be more current, see credits for details.

ATTACHMENT B

ENROLLED  
2022 Legislature

CS for CS for SB 1614

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An act relating to public records; amending s. 316.066, F.S.; revising agencies to which a public records exemption for certain motor vehicle crash reports applies; revising entities to whom crash reports may be made immediately available; revising the types of crash reports that may be made immediately available to certain radio and television stations and newspapers; providing that crash reports may be made available to certain third parties subject to a certain restriction; revising conditions for accessing crash reports; specifying the availability of crash reports after a certain period; deleting a restriction on certain crash report information by certain newspapers; providing a public records exemption for certain electronic crash data; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemptions; revising applicability of a criminal penalty; providing a private cause of action against a person who violates certain restrictions relating to personal information; specifying damages, attorney fees, costs, and other relief a court may award; providing construction; amending s. 316.650, F.S.; defining the term "driver information"; providing an exemption from public records requirements for driver information contained in a uniform traffic citation; providing retroactive applicability; authorizing the release of driver information under certain circumstances; providing for future legislative review

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30 and repeal of the exemption; providing statements of  
31 public necessity; providing an effective date.

32  
33 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

34  
35 Section 1. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 316.066,  
36 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

37 316.066 Written reports of crashes.-

38 (2) (a) Crash reports that reveal the identity, home or  
39 employment telephone number or home or employment address of, or  
40 other personal information concerning the parties involved in  
41 the crash and that are held by an any agency, as defined in s.  
42 119.011, ~~that regularly receives or prepares information from or~~  
43 ~~concerning the parties to motor vehicle crashes~~ are confidential  
44 and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State  
45 Constitution for a period of 60 days after the date the report  
46 is filed.

47 (b) Crash reports held by an agency under paragraph (a) may  
48 be made immediately available to the parties involved in the  
49 crash, their legal representatives, their licensed insurance  
50 agents, their insurers or insurers to which they have applied  
51 for coverage, persons under contract with such insurers to  
52 provide claims or underwriting information, victim services  
53 programs, and any federal, state, or local governmental agency  
54 or any private person or entity acting on behalf of a federal,  
55 state, or local governmental agency in carrying out its  
56 functions, but not for redistribution to any person or entity  
57 not listed in this subsection. Crash reports held by an agency  
58 under paragraph (a) which do not contain the home or employment

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59 street addresses, driver license or identification card numbers,  
60 dates of birth, and home and employment telephone numbers of the  
61 parties involved in the crash shall be made immediately  
62 available to radio and television stations licensed by the  
63 Federal Communications Commission and newspapers qualified to  
64 publish legal notices under ss. 50.011 and 50.031. A crash  
65 report may also be made available to any third party acting on  
66 behalf of a person or entity authorized under this section to  
67 access the crash report, except that the third party may  
68 disclose the crash report only to the person or entity  
69 authorized to access the crash report under this section on  
70 whose behalf the third party has sought the report. This section  
71 shall not prevent an agency, pursuant to a memorandum of  
72 understanding, from providing data derived from crash reports to  
73 a third party solely for the purpose of identifying vehicles  
74 involved in crashes if such data does not reveal the identity,  
75 home or employment telephone number or home or employment  
76 address, or other personal information of the parties involved  
77 in the crash prosecutorial authorities, law enforcement  
78 agencies, the Department of Transportation, county traffic  
79 operations, victim services programs, radio and television  
80 stations licensed by the Federal Communications Commission,  
81 newspapers qualified to publish legal notices under ss. 50.011  
82 and 50.031, and, in accordance with paragraph (f), free  
83 newspapers of general circulation, published once a week or more  
84 often, of which at least 7,500 copies are distributed by mail or  
85 by carrier as verified by a postal statement or by a notarized  
86 printer's statement of press run, which are intended to be  
87 generally distributed and circulated, and which contain news of

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88 ~~general interest with at least 10 pages per publication,~~  
89 ~~available and of interest to the public generally for the~~  
90 ~~dissemination of news. For the purposes of this section, the~~  
91 ~~following products or publications are not newspapers as~~  
92 ~~referred to in this section: those intended primarily for~~  
93 ~~members of a particular profession or occupational group; those~~  
94 ~~with the primary purpose of distributing advertising; and those~~  
95 ~~with the primary purpose of publishing names and other personal~~  
96 ~~identifying information concerning parties to motor vehicle~~  
97 ~~crashes.~~

98 (c) Any local, state, or federal agency that is authorized  
99 to have access to crash reports by any provision of law shall be  
100 granted such access in the furtherance of the agency's statutory  
101 duties.

102 (d) As a condition precedent to accessing a crash report  
103 ~~within 60 days after the date the report is filed,~~ a person must  
104 present a valid driver license or other photographic  
105 identification, proof of status, or identification that  
106 demonstrates his or her qualifications to access that  
107 information and file a written sworn statement with the state or  
108 local agency in possession of the information stating that  
109 information from a crash report made confidential and exempt by  
110 this section will not be used for any commercial solicitation of  
111 accident victims, or knowingly disclosed to any third party for  
112 the purpose of such solicitation, ~~during the period of time that~~  
113 ~~the information remains confidential and exempt.~~ Such written  
114 sworn statement must be completed and sworn to by the requesting  
115 party for each individual crash report that is being requested  
116 ~~within 60 days after the report is filed.~~ In lieu of requiring

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117 the written sworn statement, an agency may provide crash reports  
118 by electronic means pursuant to a memorandum of understanding to  
119 third-party vendors under contract with one or more insurers,  
120 but only when such contract states that information from a crash  
121 report made confidential and exempt by this section will not be  
122 used for any commercial solicitation of accident victims by the  
123 vendors, or knowingly disclosed by the vendors to any third  
124 party for the purpose of such solicitation, ~~during the period of~~  
125 ~~time that the information remains confidential and exempt,~~ and  
126 only when a copy of such contract is furnished to the agency as  
127 proof of the vendor's claimed status.

128 (e) This subsection does not prevent the dissemination or  
129 publication of news to the general public by any legitimate  
130 media entitled to access confidential and exempt information  
131 pursuant to this section.

132 (f) Crash reports held by an agency under paragraph (a) may  
133 be made available 60 days after the date the report is filed to  
134 any person or entity eligible to access crash reports under  
135 paragraph (b) or in accordance with any of the permissible uses  
136 listed in 18 U.S.C. s. 2721(b) and pursuant to the resale and  
137 redisclosure requirements in 18 U.S.C. s. 2721(c).

138 (g) If crash reports are created by or submitted to an  
139 agency electronically as data elements within a computerized  
140 database or if personal information from a crash report is  
141 entered into a computerized database, such crash data held by an  
142 agency is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s.  
143 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Sixty days after the  
144 date the crash report is filed, an agency may provide crash data  
145 derived from the crash report which includes personal

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146 information to entities eligible to access the crash report  
147 under paragraphs (b), or in accordance with any of the  
148 permissible uses listed in 18 U.S.C. s. 2721(b) and pursuant to  
149 the resale and redisclosure requirements in 18 U.S.C. s.  
150 2721(c). Such data shall be provided pursuant to a memorandum of  
151 understanding.

152 (h) This subsection is subject to the Open Government  
153 Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand  
154 repealed on October 2, 2027, unless reviewed and saved from  
155 repeal through reenactment by the Legislature ~~Free newspapers of~~  
156 ~~general circulation published once a week or more often, of~~  
157 ~~which at least 7,500 copies are distributed by mail or by~~  
158 ~~carrier as verified by a postal statement or by a notarized~~  
159 ~~printer's statement of press run, which are intended to be~~  
160 ~~generally distributed and circulated, which contain news of~~  
161 ~~general interest with at least 10 pages per publication,~~  
162 ~~available and of interest to the public generally for the~~  
163 ~~dissemination of news, and which request 10 or more crash~~  
164 ~~reports within a 24-hour period before 60 days have elapsed~~  
165 ~~after the report is filed may not have access to the home,~~  
166 ~~cellular, employment, or other telephone number or the home or~~  
167 ~~employment address of any of the parties involved in the crash.~~  
168 ~~This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review~~  
169 ~~Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on~~  
170 ~~October 2, 2019, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through~~  
171 ~~reenactment by the Legislature.~~

172 (3) (a) Any driver failing to file the written report  
173 required under subsection (1) commits a noncriminal traffic  
174 infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation as provided in

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175 chapter 318.

176 (b) Any employee of a state or local agency in possession  
177 of information made confidential and exempt by this section who  
178 knowingly discloses such confidential and exempt information to  
179 a person not entitled to access such information under this  
180 section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as  
181 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

182 (c) Any person, knowing that he or she is not entitled to  
183 obtain information made confidential and exempt by this section,  
184 who obtains or attempts to obtain such information commits a  
185 felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.  
186 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

187 (d) Any person who knowingly uses confidential and exempt  
188 information in violation of a filed written sworn statement,  
189 memorandum of understanding, or contractual agreement required  
190 by this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable  
191 as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

192 (e) In addition to penalties outlined in paragraphs (c) and  
193 (d), a person who obtains a crash report or crash data and who  
194 knowingly discloses or knowingly uses personal information  
195 revealed in the report for a purpose not permitted under 18  
196 U.S.C. s. 2721(b) is liable to the individual to whom the  
197 information pertains, who may bring a civil action in any court  
198 of competent jurisdiction. The court may award:

199 1. Actual damages, but not less than liquidated damages in  
200 the amount of \$2,500.

201 2. Punitive damages upon proof of willful or reckless  
202 disregard of the law.

203 3. Reasonable attorney fees and other litigation costs

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204 reasonably incurred.

205 4. Such other preliminary and equitable relief as the court  
206 determines to be appropriate.

207

208 This paragraph does not apply to radio and television stations  
209 licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and newspapers  
210 qualified to publish legal notices under ss. 50.011 and 50.031.

211 Section 2. Subsection (11) of section 316.650, Florida  
212 Statutes, is amended to read:

213 316.650 Traffic citations.—

214 (11)(a) As used in this subsection, the term "driver  
215 information" means a driver's date of birth, driver license or  
216 identification card number, address excluding the five-digit zip  
217 code, telephone number, motor vehicle license plate number, and  
218 trailer tag number. The term does not include the driver's name.

219 (b)1. Driver information contained in a uniform traffic  
220 citation held by an agency is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s.  
221 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This paragraph applies  
222 to driver information held by an agency before, on, or after the  
223 effective date of the exemption.

224 2. An agency may release driver information in accordance  
225 with any of the permissible uses listed in 18 U.S.C. s. 2721(b)  
226 in the same manner applicable to the release of personal  
227 information contained in a motor vehicle record pursuant to s.  
228 119.0712(2)(b) and pursuant to the resale and redisclosure  
229 requirements in 18 U.S.C. s. 2721(c).

230 3. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset  
231 Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed  
232 on October 2, 2027, unless reviewed and saved from repeal

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233 through reenactment by the Legislature.

234 (c) Driver information contained in a uniform traffic  
235 citation, ~~including which includes but is not limited to,~~ the  
236 accused person's name and address, shall not be used for  
237 commercial solicitation purposes. However, the use of such  
238 driver information contained in a uniform traffic citation shall  
239 not be considered a commercial purpose when used for publication  
240 in a newspaper or other news periodical, when used for broadcast  
241 by radio or television, or when used to inform a person of the  
242 availability of driver safety training.

243 Section 3. (1) The Legislature finds that it is a public  
244 necessity that crash reports that reveal personal information  
245 concerning parties, passengers, and witnesses to a crash for a  
246 period of 60 days after the date the crash report is filed with  
247 an agency; such personal information revealed in crash reports  
248 held by an agency following the 60-day period; and computerized  
249 crash report data held by an agency be confidential and exempt  
250 from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of  
251 the State Constitution. Crash reports reveal significant  
252 personal information, not only about parties involved in a  
253 crash, but also about passengers and other witnesses to the  
254 crash. Pervasive use of the Internet and related technologies  
255 abet those with malicious purposes in exploiting the use of  
256 personal information revealed in crash reports, such as a  
257 party's, passenger's, or witness's date of birth, driver license  
258 number, and address, creating ever-expanding threats to privacy  
259 and security never envisioned in generations past. Moreover,  
260 ever-increasing use of information technology for the  
261 preparation, submission, and management of crash reports has led

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262 agencies to hold vast repositories of computerized crash report  
263 data, which includes such personal information. Personal  
264 information, when held by the Department of Highway Safety and  
265 Motor Vehicles in driver license and motor vehicle records, is  
266 confidential pursuant to the federal Driver's Privacy Protection  
267 Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et seq., and s. 119.0712(2),  
268 Florida Statutes. These restrictions on disclosure of personal  
269 information, however, have not applied to personal information  
270 revealed in crash reports. When personal information revealed in  
271 crash reports or computerized crash report data is made  
272 available to the public, because it comprises much of the same  
273 personal information contained in driver license and motor  
274 vehicle records, the protections afforded by the federal  
275 Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994 are significantly  
276 undermined, eroding the privacy and safety of drivers.  
277 Therefore, the Legislature finds that it is a public necessity  
278 to make confidential and exempt from public records requirements  
279 crash reports that reveal personal information concerning  
280 parties, passengers, and witnesses to a crash for a period of 60  
281 days after the date the crash report is filed with an agency;  
282 such personal information revealed in crash reports held by an  
283 agency following the 60-day period; and computerized crash  
284 report data held by an agency.

285 (2) The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity  
286 that driver information contained in a uniform traffic citation  
287 held by an agency be exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes,  
288 and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Uniform  
289 traffic citations reveal significant personal information about  
290 drivers issued a citation. Pervasive use of the Internet and

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291 related technologies abet those with malicious purposes in  
292 exploiting the use of personal information contained in traffic  
293 citations, such as a driver's date of birth, driver license  
294 number, and address, creating ever-expanding threats to privacy  
295 and security never envisioned in generations past. Driver  
296 information, when held by the Department of Highway Safety and  
297 Motor Vehicles in driver license and motor vehicle records, is  
298 confidential pursuant to the federal Driver's Privacy Protection  
299 Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et seq., and s. 119.0712(2),  
300 Florida Statutes. These restrictions on disclosure of personal  
301 information, however, have not applied to driver information  
302 contained in uniform traffic citations. When driver information  
303 contained in uniform traffic citations is made available to the  
304 public, because it comprises much of the same personal  
305 information contained in driver license and motor vehicle  
306 records, the protections afforded by the federal Driver's  
307 Privacy Protection Act of 1994 are significantly undermined,  
308 eroding the privacy and safety of drivers. Therefore, the  
309 Legislature finds that it is a public necessity to make exempt  
310 from public records requirements driver information contained in  
311 uniform traffic citations.

312 Section 4. This act shall take effect March 1, 2023.

# ATTACHMENT C

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
2022 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED

## Committee on Transportation

**CS/CS/SB 1614 — Public Records/Motor Vehicle Crashes/Traffic Citations**  
by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee; Transportation Committee; and  
Senator Harrell

The bill expands a current public records exemption related to personal information in a crash report, and make crash report data in a computerized database confidential and exempt from public inspection and copying requirements. The bill also makes driver information contained in a uniform traffic citation (UTC) exempt from public record inspection and copying requirements.

The bill makes crash report data in a computerized database confidential and exempt from public inspection and copying requirements, and designates certain governmental and third-party entities to whom a crash report may be made immediately available. The bill permits a crash report to be available to the media provided that it does not contain the following information for the parties involved in the crash: home or employment street address; driver license or identification card number; date of birth; and home and employment telephone numbers.

The bill provides that crash reports may be made available 60 days after the report is filed to any person or entity eligible to access crash reports under the bill or in accordance with any of the permissible uses listed in the Driver's Privacy Protection Act (DPPA) of 1994 and pursuant to the resale and redisclosure requirements in the DPPA.

The bill makes driver information in a UTC exempt from public records inspection and copying requirements, and defines the term "driver information" to mean a driver's date of birth, driver license number, address excluding the five-digit zip code, telephone number, motor vehicle license plate number, and trailer tag number. The bill excludes the driver's name from the definition.

The bill specifically provides authority for an agency to release driver information in a UTC in accordance with the exemptions in the DPPA and in the same manner prescribed by statute.

The bill provides additional penalties for a person who obtains a crash report or crash data and who knowingly discloses or uses personal information revealed in the report for a purpose not permitted under the DPPA is liable to the individual to whom the information pertains, who may bring a civil action in court. The court may award: actual damages, but not less than liquidated damages in the amount of \$2,500; punitive damages upon proof of willful or reckless disregard of the law; reasonable attorney fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred; or such other preliminary and equitable relief as the court determines to be appropriate.

The bill is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will stand repealed on October 2, 2027, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect March 1, 2023.

*Vote: Senate 35-3; House 115-1*

**FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA  
CITY ATTORNEY  
REFERENCE COMMENT SUMMARY**

**SARA HEDGES**

**REFERENCES INCLUDE:**

Assistant State Attorney – Former Supervisor  
Assistant State Attorney – Former Coworker  
Circuit Court Judge – Former Supervisor

**PROFESSIONAL STRENGTHS:**

Professional experience and knowledge  
Intelligent  
Respected trial attorney  
Keeps stakeholders informed.

**PERSONALITY:**

Professional demeanor  
Even Tempered  
Dedicated professional.  
Hard worker.

**INTERPERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Well spoken.  
Thinks well “on her feet.”  
Verbal and written communications are consistently clear and concise.

**MANAGEMENT:**

“A natural leader”  
Collaborative  
Straight forward and transparent  
Supportive

**QUALIFICATIONS APPRAISAL GUIDE**

**Sara Hedges**

	Very strong evidence that skill is present (5 Points)	Strong evidence that skill is present (4 Points)	Some evidence that skill is present (3 Points)	Strong evidence that skill is not present (1-2 Points)	Very strong evidence that skill is not present (0 Points)	Insufficient evidence for or against skill (0 Points)
<b>GENERAL IMPRESSIONS:</b> Behavior and appearance appropriate to the job; poise, tact, neatness and grooming and professional maturity.						
<b>BACKGROUND:</b> Type of and quality of experience, appropriate education and reasons for job changes.						
<b>PRESENTATION:</b> Communication skills; ability to understand implications of questions and to make clear and direct replies; ability to select, organize and present ideas; clarity of speech and appropriate use of language.						
<b>JOB EFFECTIVENESS:</b> Ability to perform the duties of the job; industrious, dependable and properly assertive; ability to deal effectively with practical problems of the job; interpersonal skills appropriate for the job.						
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b> Ability to perform in an administrative capacity; understanding of the principles and practices of management and leadership; ability to lead, direct, and coordinate the work of others; understanding of the political process and ability and willingness to work within it.						

Total Points \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments**

Interviewer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

