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KISSIMMEE CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE WITH INTEGRITY IN GOV'T

EDITOR
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KISSIMMEE MAYOR'S FAMILY RECEIVED $50,000 IN COVID GRANTS; FLORIDA DOGE SEEKS DOCUMENTS

By **Shannon Butler, WFTV.com**

January 20, 2026 at 6:09 pm EST

KISSIMMEE, Fla.- The City of Kissimmee has been told by DOGE to turn over documents related to the city's BOOST 2.0 grant program.

The request comes just weeks after Channel 9 first reported that Mayor Jackie Espinoza's family businesses received $50,000 from the city-funded program.

BOOST 2.0 was designed to help businesses that said they were financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to city records, hundreds of thousands of dollars were distributed to businesses across Kissimmee including three businesses owned by members of the Espinoza family.

When questioned during a December commission meeting, the mayor defended the grants awarded to her family saying her husband applied.

"My husband isn't an elected official," Espinoza said."I am an elected official, so that still means I am no one's punching bag. So don't get it twisted. I will defend what's mine. I will defend my family in spite of the criticism that are absolutely unfounded."

Now, the program has caught the attention of the Florida Agency for Fiscal Oversight, the office leading the state's DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) efforts.

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OSCEOLA COUNTY SHERIFF APOLOGIZES FOR $40K+ VENDOR CONTRACT WITH HIS DAUGHTER'S BUSINESS

Greg Fox
WESH 2
Updated: 11:31 AM EDT Apr 22, 2026
Investigative Reporter

OSCEOLA COUNTY, Fla. -Sheriff Christopher Blackmon of Osceola County, appointed last June by Gov. Ron DeSantis after the suspension of former Sheriff Marcos Lopez, apologized for authorizing transactions between the sheriff's office and a company owned by his daughter.

However, WESH 2 Investigates received a tip in March from individuals loyal to former Sheriff Lopez, alleging Blackmon had arranged purchasing orders and other transactions with Cloud Nine Stitches, a Minneola company owned by his daughter, Lauren Mofield.

On Monday night, Blackmon emailed an apology to all employees, stating, "I want to take full responsibility for this situation and address it directly, rather than through the news or rumors. Once I recognized this mistake, I immediately halted all transactions with her company. The company has fully reimbursed the Sheriff's Office for all purchased items, and these items have been graciously donated to the department."

A spokesperson for Blackmon said he would not grant an interview, as he expects to be the target of a complaint with the Florida Commission on Ethics.

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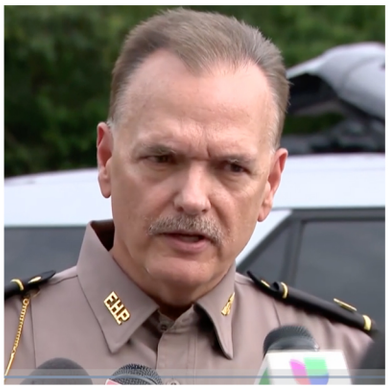
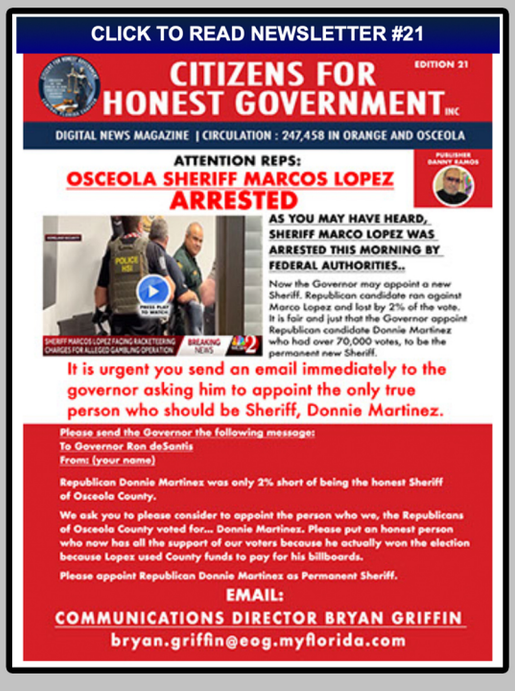
KISSIMMEE HISTORY: