

Walton Board of County Commissioners

76 North 6th Street - DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433 - Phone: (850) 892-8155

<http://www.co.walton.fl.us/>

**Larry D. Jones, Administrator
Walton County**

**Stan Sunday, Deputy Administrator (Operations)
Dede Hinote, Deputy Administrator (Administration)**

December 28, 2017

Ella Mae Walters
737 Riva Ridge Drive
Crestview FL 32539

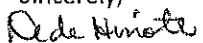
Dear Mrs. Walters:

After receipt and review of the Investigative report by our County Attorney's office regarding your employment with Walton County; let this letter serve as notice of your termination as Human Resources Director for Walton County, Florida, effective January 1, 2018.

The investigation findings were that you were arrested on November 20, 2017 for Filing False or Fraudulent Insurance Claims, a third degree felony in violation of Sec. 817.234(1)(a)1., Fla. Stat.; Falsifying Records, a first degree misdemeanor in violation of Sec 839.13(1), and Official Misconduct, a third degree felony in violation of Sec. 838.022(1)(a), Fla Stat. On December 8, 2017, an Information Form was filed charging you with the above-mentioned crimes, thus revealing there was probable cause to arrest and charge you with insurance fraud, falsifying records, and official misconduct.

Based upon the preponderance of the evidence, you have violated several provisions contained in Chapter 11 of the Walton County Personnel and Policy Manual, specifically: (c) offenses or misconduct which violate general rules of behavior or specifically prohibited by law; (h) abuse or theft of public property, equipment facilities or supplies; (i) willfully making false statements to supervisors, the BCC, or to the public, or falsification of records or misrepresentation of uniform, badge or position; and (o) violation of State and/or Federal Statutes and regulations pertaining to public employees. Your conduct also violated Chapter 24 of the Walton County Personnel Policy Manual, which states: "No employee shall engage in criminal, infamous, dishonest, immoral, or other conduct injurious or prejudicial to the County work force or the general public." You are hereby terminated based upon these findings and as according to Chapter 11, Section C, of the Walton County Personnel and Policy Manual – Application of Disciplinary Action.

Any benefits you enrolled in will expire January 31, 2018. You will receive a COBRA notice in the mail should you wish to continue your health insurance. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Dede Hinote
Deputy Administrator

cc: County Attorney

Walton Board of County Commissioners

District 1: Bill Chapman

District 2: Cecilia Jones

District 3: Melanie Nipper

District 4: Sara Comander

District 5: Tony Anderson