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LIMELIGHT

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Sodergren gives TSO another go.



Indictment: 'Person E' rebuffed Maddox

CRA head won't say how she handled complaint

Jeff Burlew

Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Scott Maddox and his associates managed to extract cash from a number of city vendors in exchange for his support on the City Commission, federal prosecutors allege. But one person, a local developer, stood up to them and refused to pay.

The public corruption indictment against now suspended Commissioner Maddox and his close friend Paige Carter-Smith doesn't mention the individual by name. The indictment, unsealed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Tallahassee, refers to him simply as "Person E."

But the indictment includes details pointing to the developer of The Oryx, a sprawling, mixed-use development located at College Avenue and Macomb Street on the edge of Florida State University's campus. The Oryx, which occupies a once-vacant lot, was developed by Tallahassee real estate developer Mike Steiner. It was built by the Chicago-based C&V Ventures.

According to the indictment, another individual, Person F, described in court documents as "a local business owner and associate of Maddox," tried to get Person E to pay up. Person E was told to make the payment through Governance, Maddox and Carter-Smith's lobbying and consulting firm.

"Person F at Maddox's direction, told Person E that Person E should pay Governance and/or a Governance employee as a consultant in exchange for Maddox's vote on the project," the indictment states. "Person F indicated to Person E that this message was coming from Maddox."

But Person E balked at the request. Maddox, then a member of the CRA board, was a no-show when it came time to vote on the funding to help Person E and his project.

"Person E refused to pay Governance," the indictment states.

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Pablo Correa, 42, will graduate with his Ph.D. from Florida State University today. 10N

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'NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD MAKE IT'

Pablo Correa's journey: From rock bottom to a Florida State Ph.D.



Pablo Correa, 42, works on his computer at home. Correa will graduate with his Ph.D. from Florida State University today. 10N SCHNEIDER/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

"Somehow, I told myself, 'I'm not going to live to be 30; I'm not going to live past 25.' That's a lot of the sentiment in the inner city where we grew up at."

Pablo Correa

Nada Hassanali

Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Ten years ago, Pablo Correa walked every day from his Pensacola Street apartment through Florida State University's woody campus to his job at Hoot on Tennessee Street.

On Friday, the award-winning filmmaker and writer will take a shorter walk — this time, across the stage in FSU's Donald L. Tucker Civic Center to be honored as a Ph.D. at the university's fall commencement ceremony.

The Port Landerside native, who grew up in a troubled, drug-infested neighborhood and started his way through community college, looks back at his journey, stunned. "I never thought I would make it," Correa, 42, said. College wasn't a goal. He didn't even think he'd live past 30.

That year, 2008, Correa reached rock bottom.

It was a wake-up call, walking like a ghost through FSU's campus, home to his dad's favorite football team. Correa moved to Tallahassee to be with friends, and so he could go to FSU to honor his dad, the immigrant construction worker who worked signs on I-95 at 70 years old.

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Denise Williams sits with Kathy Thomas, ex-wife of Brian Winchester, testifies Thursday. 10N SCHNEIDER/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Williams murder trial: Denise's fate will be in jury's hands today

Karl Eiters and Jennifer Portman

Tallahassee Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

A jury will hear closing arguments and deliberate today on whether Denise Williams is responsible for the killing of her husband Mike Williams and his 30-year-old son.

Both Assistant State Attorney Jon Fuchs and Williams' defense attorney Brian Voy rested their case Thursday after four days of testimony that portrayed her as either the mastermind of a cold-blooded murder or a grief-stricken widow who put the loss of her husband behind her for the sake of their child.

She faces charges of first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and accessory after the fact. If found guilty of any one of the charges, the 41-year-old would spend the rest of her life in prison.

Denise Williams takes 'a gamble'

James will not have the option to convict her of any lesser charges, a move Leon Circuit Judge James Hankinson warned Williams was risky. "It is a relatively radical decision that's not made in many cases. You understand it's a little out of the ordinary," Hankinson asked Williams, who de-

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