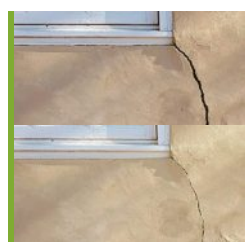


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The Gainesville Sun

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Court: FL Stop WOKE Act is unconstitutional



A federal appeals court ruled that Florida's Stop WOKE Act, signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, cannot be enforced because it likely violates First Amendment protections. TORI SCHNEIDER/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Rules blasts law as 'brehtaking' violation of First Amendment

Stephany Matat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Florida's law limiting race-based trainings or instruction still can't be enforced, after a sharply divided three-judge appeals court panel ruled that the law violates the First Amendment rights of students and professors.

The 2-1 majority of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals contended that the law suppresses political viewpoints contrary to Florida officials in academic settings, and that the law would "create a new rule that would quietly remove all free speech protections from the classroom," wrote Judge Britt Grant, who was appointed by President Donald Trump in 2018.

The ruling blasts the law as a "breath-taking assertion of power to ban unpopular ideas from public discourse."

"Because the government pays the professors' salaries, Florida says, their speech is the State's speech. Emphatically no."

Judge Britt Grant
11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

"Because the government pays the professors' salaries, Florida says, their speech is the State's speech," Grant wrote. "Emphatically no."

This decision comes after multiple years of legal battles, since the law (HB 7) was signed in 2022 by Gov. Ron DeSantis to combat "woke" ideologies in schools, colleges and universities. At

this time, DeSantis' national profile was rapidly rising prior to him announcing a White House presidential bid, and he positioned himself on battling cultural issues and a chief critic to critical race theory.

DeSantis has kept the fight going over the years. In recent months, Florida officials moved to disallow introductory sociology classes from counting toward general education requirements, citing a Florida law endorsed by the governor in his push to prohibit critical race theory in classroom curricula and cut diversity, equity and inclusion programs at universities.

"Florida seeks to strip public university professors — and by extension their students — of the ability to fully engage with ideas that are, for better or

See COURT, Page 2A

Animal Resources probe rejects most allegations

Finds no evidence of mismanagement

Elliot Tritto
Gainesville Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

More than four months after Alachua County hired an outside law firm to investigate allegations of animal neglect and mismanagement at Alachua County Animal Resources, an independent investigation found no evidence that current shelter leadership violated laws or engaged in gross mismanagement.

In a 31-page report dated July 1, attorney Stephanie Marchman of Gray-Robinson concluded that while some concerns raised in a whistleblower complaint had a factual basis, investigators found no evidence that current county employees committed violations that endangered public welfare or amounted to gross neglect.

Questions raised about complaint's authorship

The investigation also raised questions about who authored the 15-page whistleblower complaint emailed to Alachua County commissioners and local media outlets, including The Sun, on March 2.

Although the complaint identified former Outreach Coordinator Anthony

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Dogs play in a pool at Alachua County Animal Resources on Sept. 18, 2025, in Gainesville.

ALAN YOUNGBLOOD/GAINESVILLE SUN

Popular FL influencer dies after gunshots hit Lamborghini

Michelle Spitzer
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

A popular Florida influencer with nearly 400,000 TikTok followers was killed with the Lamborghini she was riding in was hit with gunfire, according to authorities.

Brianna Johnson, 21, was riding in the lime green Lamborghini Urus Sunday, July 5 when a white sedan pulled up along side it at an intersection and opened fire, Miramar police said in a statement released to USA Today Network. Two other people also were in the

luxury vehicle and were transported to a hospital in critical condition.

Johnson died from her injuries. Identities of the other two victims have not been released.

Detectives are asking anyone with information to contact them as the investigation is ongoing.

Who was Florida influencer killed when Lamborghini shot at?

Johnson went by the name @_itgirlbri on TikTok where she had more than 382,000 followers. On Instagram she

was known as @dreamdoll_brii with more than 87,000 followers.

Her last post, about a week ago, amassed 3 million views on TikTok. It featured her posing with a high-end Mercedes Benz.

Followers were posting condolence messages on her social media page expressing shock and disbelief.

Where is Miramar where popular Florida influencer was killed?

Miramar is in the southern part of Broward County.

It's located about 30 minutes from Fort Lauderdale and just north of Miami Stadium.

According to Miramar police, officers responded to the area of Southwest 27th Court and Sunrise Boulevard to investigate.

Michelle Spitzer is a journalist for The USA TODAY NETWORK-FLORIDA. As the network's Rapid Response reporter, she covers Florida's breaking news. You can get all of Florida's best content directly in your inbox by signing up for the free newsletter, Florida TODAY, at <https://floridatoday.com/newsletters>.

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