

Florida Democrats Defend Gov. Ron DeSantis After '60 Minutes' Cut Key Quotes

Some top Florida Democrats are calling the recent CBS *60 Minutes* story on Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis “malarkey” and “intentionally false.”

60 Minutes alleged in their report Sunday that DeSantis chose Publix supermarket pharmacies for the state’s rollout of vaccine distribution because of the company’s previous contributions to his campaign. The story also alleged that the rollout was slower to minority communities in Palm Beach County because a Publix supermarket was not located nearby. The state addressed that concern by setting up drive-thru vaccine sites in those areas, as it had done in other parts of Florida.

According to *The Daily Caller*, Democrat Jared Moskowitz, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, called the theory of a “pay to play” deal by DeSantis “utter nonsense,” saying the suggestion to choose Publix came from his office.

“We reached out to all pharmacies and they were the only one who at the time could execute on the mission. The federal government delayed the federal pharmacy program and we yet again stepped up first to serve more seniors,” Moskowitz tweeted.

In a later tweet, Moskowitz reiterated his previous tweet, writing that Publix “was recommended by” the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Florida Department of Health because “the other pharmacies were not ready to start.”

“Period! Full stop! No one from the Governor’s office

suggested Publix. It's just absolute malarkey," according to Moskowitz.

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