

Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on September 14, 2022



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MIAMI, FL (September 14, 2022) – The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust held a public meeting on September 14, 2022. The following actions took place:

Probable Cause Found in Case Involving County Water and Sewer Department Supervisor

C 22-49-08: Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department Supervisor (WASD), Ariel Casanueva, stipulated to a finding of Probable Cause and entered into a settlement agreement for violating the Exploitation of Official Position section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. Mr. Casanueva will be issued a Letter of Reprimand and required to pay a fine in the amount of \$500. The ethics violation was reported to the WASD Department Director.

A COE investigation revealed that Mr. Casanueva stored personal equipment in a County facility and directed his subordinate County employee to clean his (the respondent's) personal vehicle on the County property, during the employee's paid workday.

Complaint Filed Against Bay Harbor Islands Town Officials Found Not Legally Sufficient

C 22-31-06: A complaint filed against Joshua Fuller, the Mayor of Bay Harbor Islands (BHI), Robert Yaffe, Councilman for BHI, Issac Salver, Councilman for BHI, and Jordan Leonard, former Councilman for BHI was found to be Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed. The complaint alleged that all four respondents ignored the Right to be Heard section of the Citizen's Bill of Rights when the complainant was allegedly not afforded the opportunity to speak at a BHI Town Council Meeting.

Probable Cause Found in Case Involving Miami-Dade County Police Complaint Officer

C 22-50-09: Miami-Dade County Police Complaint Officer, Randi Irizarry, stipulated to a finding of Probable Cause and entered into a settlement agreement for violating the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. Ms. Irizarry will be issued a Letter of Instruction and required to pay a fine in the amount of \$500.

A COE investigation revealed that Ms. Irizarry failed to file outside employment statements as required by the ordinance despite conducting business selling products and/or providing services of a spiritual nature.

Complaint Filed Against Town of Surfside Mayor Dismissed, Other Withdrawn

C 22-36-07, C 22-37-07: A complaint filed against Town of Surfside Mayor Shlomo Danzinger was found Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed. The complaint alleged a violation of several provisions of the Citizens' Bill of Rights when Mayor Danzinger allegedly intentionally manipulated the presentation of a Beach Furniture Ordinance to prevent residents from speaking about the item during the public comment portion of the meeting.

A second complaint filed by the same Town of Surfside resident against Vice-Mayor Jeffrey Rose alleging a violation of the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance was withdrawn by the complainant.

Complaint Filed Against North Miami Beach City Manager Found Not Legally Sufficient

C 22-38-07: A complaint filed against North Miami Beach City Manager Arthur Sorey was found Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed. The complaint alleged that Mr. Sorey violated the Truth in Government section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights when he allegedly circulated false information in a public email.

Complaint Filed Against Former County Commission Candidate Found Not Legally Sufficient

C 22-41-08: A complaint filed against then-County Commission Candidate and current Mayor of Doral, Juan Carlos Bermudez, was found Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed. The complaint alleged that Mr. Bermudez violated Florida election laws when he allegedly obtained City-paid campaign contributions to promote a campaign television advertisement for his candidacy to the Miami-Dade Commission.

No Probable Cause Found in Case Involving Sunny Isles Beach Commissioner

C 22-10-02: The Ethics Commission unanimously found No Probable Cause that City of Sunny Isles Beach Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant violated the Mandatory Fair Campaign Practices Section of the Miami-Dade County Code. The complaint alleged that then candidate for City Commission, Commissioner Stuyvesant, distributed a campaign flyer with alleged false and malicious statements regarding her opponent for office Greg Capra.

Letter of Instruction ratified in case involving Magnum Construction Management (MCM) Vice President

C 22-25-05: A Letter of Instruction was ratified in a case involving Laura Munilla, Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Magnum Construction Management (MCM).

Ms. Munilla previously stipulated to a finding of Probable Cause and entered into a settlement agreement for violating the Lobbying section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.

The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of training, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.