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Summary of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on March 12, 2023

MIAMI, FL (March 12, 2023) The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust held a public meeting on March 12, 2023. The following actions took place:

Complaint Filed Against North Bay Village Mayor Found Not Legally Sufficient

C 23-03-01: A complaint filed against North Bay Village (NBV) Mayor, Brent Latham, was found Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed. The complaint alleged that Mr. Latham violated the Exploitation of Official Position Prohibited section of the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance when he allegedly drafted a false document and furnished it to members of the NBV Commission and the public, and when he also allegedly informed the public that a lawsuit was filed solely for harassment purposes.

Complaint Filed Against South Miami Vice Mayor Found Not Legally Sufficient

C 23-04-01: A complaint filed against South Miami Vice Mayor, Lisa Bonich, was found Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed. The complaint alleged that Ms. Bonich violated the City of South Miami Charter when she allegedly dismissed the complainant from his service on a committee and appointed someone else.

drafted a false document and furnished it to members of the NBV Commission and the public, and when he also allegedly informed the public that a lawsuit was filed solely for harassment purposes.

Complaint Filed Against County Solid Waste Management Employee Found Not Legally Sufficient

C 23-01-01: A complaint filed against the Assistant Director for waste collections operations in the Department of Solid Waste Management, Sherra Dunham-Camp, was found Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed. The complaint alleged that Ms. Dunham-Camp violated the Truth in Government provision of the County Charter’s Citizens’ Bill of Rights when she knowingly omitted significant facts during the evaluation of an employee.

Complaint Filed Against North Miami Beach Commissioner Found Not Legally Sufficient

C 23-02-01: A complaint filed against North Miami Beach Commissioner, McKenzie Fleurimond, was found Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed. The complaint alleged that Commissioner Fleurimond violated the County Citizens’ Bill of Rights and the North Miami Beach Municipal Ethics Code when he left the dais during a Commission meeting thereby breaking quorum and stopping the vote on the termination of the City Attorney.

No Probable Cause Found in Case Involving Mayor of North Bay Village

C 22-60-10: The Ethics Commission unanimously found No Probable Cause that North Bay Village Mayor, Brent Latham, violated the Exploitation of Official Position section of the Miami-Dade County Code. The complaint alleged that Mr. Latham used his position as Mayor to make North Bay Village sanitation workers search through tons of garbage to look for specific items belonging to a resident on behalf of a contractor who mistakenly discarded the items. The complaint also alleged that the contractor was Mayor Latham's relative.

No Legal Sufficiency and No Probable Cause Found in Case Involving Village of Palmetto Bay Councilmember

C 22-33-07: The Ethics Commission unanimously found No Probable Cause that Village of Palmetto Bay Councilmember, Steve Cody, violated the Exploitation of Official Position section of the Miami-Dade County Code and found Not Legally Sufficient the allegation of a violation of the Truth in Government section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights. The complaint alleged that Councilmember Cody used public resources to transmit defamatory statements to the complainant and others for his personal benefit.

Final Candidates Chosen and Interview Date Set for Selection of New COE General Counsel

The COE Executive Director provided the Commission with an update on the candidates who applied for the COE General Counsel position opening. After deliberation, the Commission selected seven finalists for interview. Public interviews are scheduled for March 8, 2023.

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.