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City of Miami Elected Official and Local Attorney Criminally Charged in Case Initiated as Possible Ethics Violation

MIAMI, FL (September 14, 2023) As a result of an investigation that began as an inquiry into possible violations of local ethics ordinances, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) agents today arrested City of Miami Commissioner Alejandro “Alex” Diaz de la Portilla and attorney William W. Riley on one count of money laundering, three counts of unlawful compensation or reward for official behavior, one count of bribery, and one count of criminal conspiracy.

Commissioner Diaz de la Portilla is also charged with four counts of official misconduct, one count of campaign contribution in excess of legal limits, and two counts of failure to report a gift. Riley Jr. is also charged with failure to disclose lobbyist expenses.

“It is always sad and regrettable when an elected official is criminally charged with abusing the public’s trust, but the community should find some solace in the fact that today’s arrest will shine a bright light on the alleged criminal conduct,” stated Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust Executive Director Jose Arrojo. “The investigation leading to today’s arrest of City of Miami Commissioner Alex Diaz de la Portilla and local attorney William W. Riley, Jr. began as an inquiry into possible violations of local ethics ordinances. Once it became evident that a violation of criminal law was indicated, the matter was brought to prosecutors and law enforcement. We commend the Broward State Attorney’s Office and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for their work on this case and thank them for allowing the Ethics Commission to partner with them.”

For further details regarding FDLE’s arrest of Commissioner de la Portilla [click here](#).

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.