



701 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Court,  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Miami, FL  
33136  
(305) 579-2594  
Hotline: (786) 314-9560  
ethics@miamidade.gov

#### COMMISSIONERS

Dr. Judith Bernier,  
CHAIR  
Wifredo "Willy" Gort  
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Dava J. Tunis, Esq.  
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**General Counsel**  
Loressa Felix, Esq.

**Advocate**  
Radia Turay, Esq.

**For Press Inquiries:**  
Leonardo Mendoza  
Public Information Officer  
(305) 579-2594  
Leonardo.Mendoza@  
miamidade.gov

## Summary of November Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting

MIAMI, FL (November 14, 2024) The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust held a public meeting on November 13, 2024. The following actions took place:

### **Complaint Filed Against Former Sunny Isles Beach Commission Candidate Found Not Legally Sufficient**

**C 24-29-08:** A complaint filed against former City of Sunny Isles Beach Commission candidate, Greg Capra, was found Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed. The complaint alleged that Mr. Capra violated the *Mandatory Campaign Practices* provision of the Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance.

The complaint alleged that Mr. Capra published a series of five emails that falsely accused his opponent of being "pro Hamas" "siding with Hamas," and making "anti-Israel" statements.

### **Public Hearing Date Set in Case Involving Former Town of Surfside Mayor**

**C 23-53-11:** A public hearing was set for the February COE Meeting in a complaint involving former Town of Surfside Mayor Shlomo Danzinger. The Commission previously found Probable Cause that Mr. Danzinger violated the Exploitation of Official Position Prohibited section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance while making a power point presentation where he used Town resources to promote his mayoral campaign.

### **Complaint Filed Against Miami-Dade County Commissioner Found Not Legally Sufficient**

**C 24-31-09:** A complaint filed against Miami-Dade County Commissioner, Eileen Higgins, was found Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed. The complaint alleged that Commissioner Higgins violated the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

The complaint alleged that Commissioner Higgins and/or her office blocked complainant from viewing and responding to posts on a social media page created to allow the Respondent and her staff to communicate and interact with the public directly about government matters such as legislation, policies, and votes.

### **Commission Adopts Amendment to COE Rules of Procedure**

The COE unanimously adopted an amendment to Rule 3.6 of the COE Rule of Procedure that allow additional means for respondents to seek reasonable attorney fees or costs in the defense of a frivolous or groundless complaint.

### **Complaint Filed Against Miami-Dade County Commissioner Found Not Legally Sufficient**

**C 24-33-10:** A complaint filed against Sunny Isles Beach Commissioner and then Commission candidate, Jerry Joseph, was found Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed.

The complaint alleged that Commissioner Joseph violated Florida Statute when he offered a monetary reward on social media to anyone that could provide videos of his campaign signs being removed.

*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.*