



Annual Report

MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION
ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

Independence. Truth. Fairness.

FY 2019-2020



A year's review

FY 19-20 ANNUAL REPORT

Commissioners

Nelson C. Bellido, ESQ.

Chairman

Dr. Judith Bernier

Vice Chair

Judge Lawrence A. Schwartz (Ret.)

Commissioner

Jan L. Jacobowitz, ESQ.

Commissioner

Wifredo "Willy" Gort

Commissioner

Executive Staff

Jose J. Arrojo, ESQ.

Executive Director

Michael P. Murawski, ESQ.

Advocate

Martha D. Perez, ESQ.

General Counsel

Building Trust and Confidence in Local Government

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Nelson C. Bellido

There is light at the end of the tunnel. We know that 2020 has been challenging for so many in our beloved County. The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust is no exception. We faced and overcame many hurdles including pivoting to virtual meetings consistent with Florida's

Sunshine Laws as modified by Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Order and moving into our new offices at the Overtown Village North Tower, that will provide cost savings for years to come. I personally thank my fellow Commissioners Vice Chair Dr. Judith Bernier, the Honorable Lawrence "Larry" Schwartz, Jan Jacobowitz, Esq. and commissioner Wifredo "Willy" Gort, for persevering with great patience and understanding. Equally commendable, Executive Director Jose Arrojo, Public Information Officer Leo Mendoza and the COE's exceptional staff have all stepped up in a time of need. We also welcomed Martha Perez as the COE's General Counsel who was previously staff counsel. Unfortunately, we also mourned the unexpected loss of executive assistant Machell Patricia Anderson who served our community for over 35 years as a member of the Miami Dade State Attorney's Office and the COE. I sincerely thank and recognize everyone during this difficult transition that has been seamless.

I know that while 2020 has posed certain challenges for us at the Ethics Commission, especially during an election year, I am optimistic that 2021 will be better. While the Ethics Commission is often in the background because of the nature of the work that we do, it is important that the community continue to be made aware that we are here to serve them and understand that the Ethics Commission performs a vital role in ensuring the integrity of the governmental decision-making process and works hard to instill confidence in government. We continue to be committed to improving the process for all involved in filing complaints and in defending allegations. The cornerstone of our communities are our local elected officials who by far admirably serve our community and should be celebrated and recognized for their public service. However, we must also hold those accountable who violate the Ethics Code or betray the public's trust.

It is our goal in 2021, even in light of COVID-19 obstacles, to continue to serve the residents of Miami-Dade County with a transparent process that takes the concerns of all into account and facilitates the process. We take our role to investigate complaints and educate our community on the Ethics Code seriously so that all can feel confident that they have been provided with a fair opportunity when dealing with the Ethics Commission.

Lastly, as always, I thank you, the residents of Miami-Dade County, for bestowing the Ethics Commission with the privilege of serving you. As a volunteer and Chairperson of the Ethics Commission and on behalf of my fellow Commissioners and all of us at the Ethics Commission, I wish you all a very safe, happy and ethical 2021!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jose Arrojo

The past fiscal year presented significant and unexpected challenges to the Ethics Commission staff. Compliance with executive orders limiting group gatherings and in-person contacts, as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, required changes to work protocols in existence for decades. Staff and agency resources had to be refocused so that we could continue to provide client services in a contact restricted environment.

Nevertheless, staff was able to meet the demands of our new environment with little or no interruption in our services, and then only in the early months of the pandemic. Thereafter, we adapted and found new ways to serve our clients in local government and the greater community.

As the Ethics Commission retooled and became more operationally proficient in the new work environment, we were able to successfully transition from primarily in-person training to county-wide videoconference teaching. By partnering with private sector vendors, we produced our own in-house ethics training product that is now available by accessing on-line links. Our monthly Ethics Commission meetings, like those of all other public boards, were conducted using videoconference technology.

In spite of unexpected expenditures caused by the pandemic, we finished our year within budget. We were able to expand our legal staff with the hiring of a third Staff Attorney and the appointment of a General Counsel, a position that had gone unfilled since 2018. Likewise, with the assistance of our County partners, we were able to find alternative funding to complete the long-delayed build-out of the Ethics Commission's new offices and complete the move to our new space where staff will be able to better serve the public.

Finally, through it all, we provided over 150 ethics opinions to elected officials and staff, hosted 70 training events for hundreds of participants, handled over 100 ethics complaints and inquiries - several resulting in significant actions impacting local government officials and practices - and we responded to over 200 hundred hotline and email inquiries.

We are confident that during the new fiscal year, we will continue to play an integral part in ensuring the integrity of the local governmental decision-making process and increasing the public's confidence in local government.



Meet The Commissioners



NELSON C. BELLIDO, ESQ. CHAIRMAN

Nelson C. Bellido was appointed to the Ethics Commission by the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit, Joel Brown, in July 2010. Mr. Bellido is a managing partner in the Miami-based law firm ROIG Lawyers, a former adjunct professor of Business Law at Florida Memorial College, worked with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office from 1993 to 1997, was a Director of the Cuban American Bar Association, past president and director of the League of Prosecutors and has been serving on the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition Inc.'s board of directors for the past eight years. Mr. Bellido received his Juris Doctor from the University of Florida College of Law and earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science and History with emphasis on Latin American History from Duke University.



JUDITH BERNIER, ESQ. VICE CHAIR

Judith Bernier is the Director of the Center for Labor Research and Studies at Florida International University (FIU), where the mission is to develop and raise awareness about the changing nature of work and workplace diversity. As faculty member, Dr. Bernier teaches courses in labor relations and employment, global diversity and cultural competence, conflict resolution and mediation techniques, and vocational education. Dr. Bernier earned her Doctorate in Adult Education and Human Resource Development, Master's in Human Resource Development, and Bachelor's in Communication from FIU. She serves as a peer reviewer for academic journals in her field and is involved in several professional organizations. Dr. Bernier is a former adjunct professor at Miami-Dade College and worked in the private sector as a human resource manager and trainer at a national retailer. She has been an Ethics Commissioner since May 2014.

Meet The Commissioners



JUDGE LAWRENCE A. SCHWARTZ COMMISSIONER

Judge Lawrence A. Schwartz was appointed to serve on the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust by Chief Circuit Court Judge, Joel Brown, in January 2013, shortly after his retirement from the bench. Judge Schwartz won election to the County Court in 1991 and subsequently sat on the Circuit Court after his appointment by then-Governor Lawton Chiles in 1997. Mr. Schwartz received an Associate's Degree from Dade County Junior College, a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Oklahoma and a Master's Degree in Education from Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Schwartz taught sixth grade for five years at Lake Stevens Elementary in Carol City. After earning his Juris Doctorate from the University of the Pacific, Mr. Schwartz was a Deputy District Attorney in Sacramento, California, for a dozen years. The Miami Beach native returned home in 1987 to work as an Assistant State Attorney in the 11th Judicial Circuit prosecuting economic crimes, before ascending to the Bench.



JAN L. JACOBOWITZ, ESQ. COMMISSIONER

Jan Jacobowitz is a law school lecturer and serves as Director of the University of Miami Law School's Professional Responsibility and Ethics Program and as Director of UM's Government and Ethics Project. Ms. Jacobowitz began her career as a Legal Aid attorney in the District of Columbia; prosecuted Nazi war criminals at the Office of Special Investigations of the U. S. Department of Justice; and was in private practice with general practice and commercial litigation firms in Washington and Miami. She was also a teacher in Coral Reef High School's Legal Academy for five years. Ms. Jacobowitz earned a Juris Doctorate from George Washington University and a B.S. in Speech from Northwestern University. She was sworn into a four-year term as an Ethics Commissioner in June 2018.

Meet The Commissioners



WIFREDO "WILLY" GORT COMMISSIONER

Wifredo "Willy" Gort is a longtime Miami-Dade County resident with almost two decades of municipal service having been elected to the City of Miami Commission two times and acting as its mayor in 1996 after the passing of then City of Miami Mayor Stephen Clark. Mr. Gort has been an active member of his community for

decades and has served on numerous boards and committees within the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County. He is a founding member and board member of the Latin Chamber of Commerce (CAMACOL), a former President of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities and has served on the boards of the Christian Community Service Agency, the East Little Havana Development Corp., the United Way, and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Gort is a graduate of both Miami-Dade Community College and Florida International University, holding a B.A. in Business Administration.





STAFFING

This year saw the completed realignment and expansion of the agency's staff to better provide effective legal, enforcement, training, and outreach services using traditional and electronic media platforms and reaching traditionally lesser served communities.

- The Commission on Ethics is now staffed with three (3) full-time Staff Attorneys, a General Counsel and Advocate. All positions are filled.
- The General Counsel was selected by the Ethics Commission after a public competitive selection process and the third Staff Attorney position was selected by staff after a public advertisement and a competitive interview process.
- The addition of a third Staff Attorney will result in an increase in availability of legal staff by over 2,000 work hours. The previous year's increase in legal staff availability caused by the hiring of two (2) existing part-time Staff Attorneys to full time employment resulted in an increase in availability of 832 work hours per year.
- Since September 2018, Ethics Commission legal staff has increased its annual availability by over 2,800 hours.
- The reclassified and refocused position of Communications and Public Information Officer is filled and has allowed for expanded outreach into previously underserved communities, electronic media outreach, and the production of on-line training products.
- Continuation of the law school legal internship program to afford training and augment the legal staffing compliment.

BUDGET

“

Our budget presents an actual increase in available funding for staff and client services, while allowing for an overall year to year total budget reduction caused by eliminating rent payments for the prior Biscayne Building offices.

”

2.571 Million

**COE's Budget for
FY 2020-2021**

Civil Litigation



The legal staff filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Ethics Commission when a former elected official did not pay fines and costs imposed in an enforcement action.

Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust v. Frantz Pierre, Case No. 2019-009201-SP05 (Pending)

This is a collection action to collect the fine and costs that Defendant Frantz Pierre owes to the Ethics Commission. As background, on September 27, 2016, the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (Ethics Commission) Advocate filed a Complaint against then City of North Miami Beach Councilman Frantz Pierre for violating Section 2-11.1(g) of the Ethics Code entitled “Exploitation of official position prohibited.” An evidentiary, public hearing was held before the Ethics Commission regarding the Complaint. At hearing, the Ethics Commission found by clear and convincing evidence that the Defendant intentionally violated Section 2-11.1(g) of the Ethics Code and ordered the Defendant to pay a fine of \$1000.00 and investigative costs of \$500.00. To date, the Defendant has failed to pay the fine and investigative costs as ordered by the Ethics Commission. The matter is set for final summary judgment hearing in February 2021.

PHYSICAL LOCATION

Overtown Village Transit Center

701 NW 1st Court 8th Floor, Miami, FL, 33136

ADDITIONAL STAFF
AND PUBLIC SERVICE
SPACE

ETHICS COMMISSION
MEETING AND HEARING
CHAMBERS

ANTICIPATED BUDGET
IMPACT ELIMINATED



The agency completed its long-delayed move, in process since summer of 2018, from its prior location to its current space at the Overtown Transit Village. As a result of our agency's efforts this last year, the final floor plan was modified to provide additional staff and public service space while maintaining large meeting and hearing chambers for the Ethics Commission and the public. Also, as a result of our work with county budget and design officials, responsibility for build-out and relocation costs of approximately a third of a million dollars was transferred from the agency's budget and billed to the County's overall capital improvement fund, thus eliminating anticipated budget impact to the Ethics Commission.

A top-down view of four people sitting around a large wooden table, shaking hands in the center. The table is cluttered with laptops, tablets, notebooks, and coffee cups, suggesting a collaborative work environment.

A word cloud featuring various terms related to ethics and morality. The words are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern and are color-coded. The most prominent words, shown in larger fonts, include 'MORALS', 'ETHICS', 'TRUTH', 'PHILOSOPHY', 'HONOR', 'VALUES', and 'CONDUCT'. Other visible words include 'PRINCIPLES', 'WORTHINE', 'FAITH', 'RESPONSIB', 'INTEGRITY', 'THEORY', 'EQUALITY', 'RESPECTAB', 'TREATM', 'HYPOCRISY', 'AUTHENTICITY', 'CHARACTER', 'TRUST', 'RULES', 'ETIQUETTE', 'PERFORMANCE', 'INNOCENCE', 'FAIRNESS', 'DECENCY', 'VIRTUE', 'STANDARDS', 'PURPOSE', 'ATTITUDE', 'CEPTANCE', 'CRITERIA', 'AIRNESS', 'CONVENTIONALITIES', 'SOCIAL', 'MOTIVATION', and 'VIR'. The colors used include shades of blue, green, orange, red, and purple.



ETHICS OPINIONS & GUIDANCE

160

ETHICS OPINIONS

The Ethics Commission's lawyers provided approximately 160 ethics opinions during this past fiscal year to County and municipal elected officials, board members, employees, and persons that transact with local government including lobbyists and vendors.

155

INFORMAL OPINIONS (INQ'S)

Approximately 155 informal opinions (INQs), formal opinions (RQOs), and public housing assistance opinions (H-INQ's and SECs) were issued during the year. The formal ethics opinions issued by the Commission on Ethics as RQOs and discussed further in the following pages.

FORMAL OPINIONS

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in local government*

RQO 19-04

Section 2-11.1(d) of the County Ethics Code (Voting Conflict). This formal opinion, provided to an elected official, clarified that this section of the Ethics Code imposes a per se or automatic prohibition on an elected official's vote or participation if he or she holds a primary enumerated position with an entity that may be directly or indirectly affected by the official action. However, there are two limited exceptions to the per se conflict: (1) when a voting member is employed with a government entity and there is no unique impact to the elected official; and, (2) when the voting member serves an enumerated position with an entity which is part of the overall budget and the funding allocation to that entity is minor compared to the overall budget. However, regarding the latter exception, an elected official is otherwise prohibited from participating in items or discussion regarding funding of the affected entity in other meetings of the elected body during which the body is specifically addressing funding for the entity.



FORMAL OPINIONS (CONT'D)

RQO

19-05

Section 2-11.1(k)(2) of the County Ethics Code (Electronic signatures for the Outside Employment Statement). This formal opinion was provided to the Deputy Supervisor of Elections. Prior to this opinion, the Elections Department accepted the Outside Employment (OE) Statements via email with a “manually affixed original signature.” With the new PeopleSoft OE filing system, which complies with the requirements under state law for electronic signatures, the County Elections Department was informed that it may accept the OE Statement, drafted by the Ethics Commission, with the filer’s electronic signature as long as the system ultimately selected by the County for this purpose meets the requirements of Chapter 668, Florida Statutes.

RQO

19-06

Section 2-11.1 of the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance and Section 2-1529 of the Miami-Dade County Code (The Children’s Trust). This formal opinion was provided to the Chief of Staff of the Children’s Trust. It resulted in the applicability of the entire Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance to the Children’s Trust. The Ethics Commission, in reviewing the language of the Children’s Trust enabling ordinance found at Section 2-1529 of the County Code, concluded that language limiting the applicability of the County Ethics Code to only two sections of the Ethics Code was a scrivener’s error, and clarified that the intent of the ordinance was to have the entire Ethics Code apply to the Children’s Trust members, employees, lobbyist, vendors and all persons acting on behalf of the Trust.

Enforcement

BY THE NUMBERS

COMPLAINTS

Complaints (Cs) are formal filed matters presented to the Ethics Commission directly filed by outside third parties or self-initiated by Commission Staff.

PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES

(PIs) are investigations handled by the enforcement staff regarding allegations of misconduct that are within the Ethics Commission's enforcement jurisdiction.

MIAMI BEACH LOBBYIST APPEALS

Miami Beach Lobbyist Appeals filed by lobbyists that have been sanctioned by Miami Beach for late or insufficient lobbyist expenditure filings.

HOTLINE CALLS LOGGED & RESPONDED

Ethics Hotline Calls are miscellaneous reports and inquiries that come into the agency's hotline mobile telephone number and are logged and responded to by investigators and attorneys.

NO ACTIONS-REFERRALS

No Actions (NAs) are responses to reporting parties alleging violations that do not meet the Ethics Commission's enforcement jurisdiction. Complaints are reviewed and parties then referred to agencies that can assist them.

52

Complaints

62

Preliminary
Inquiries

5

Miami Beach
Lobbyist
Appeals

101

Hotline Calls
Logged &
Responded

147

No Actions -
Referrals



HIGHLIGHTED CASES

CASE PI 18-59

North Bay Village Commissioner Andreina Jackson: Commissioner Jackson pleaded guilty in July 2020 to charges of extortion by a public official and exploitation of her official position after an investigation by the Ethics Commission found she accepted payments from a local events planner to solicit donations from developers, Village vendors and local businesses. She told them the money was for a free event for Village children she was sponsoring as a Village commissioner. She also applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from the Knight Foundation for the event. She also used Village staff and resources to organize and promote the event. Almost ten percent of the money she raised for the event was paid back to her in what the events planner termed a "commission." As part of the plea agreement, Ms. Jackson was sentenced to six months of probation and required to resign from her position and agree not to run for office while she was on probation. She was also required to pay \$1,000 to the Ethics Commission to defray the cost of the investigation and to donate the rest of the money she received, \$1950, to the Village.

"Ms. Jackson was sentenced to six months of probation and required to resign from her position and agree not to run for office while she was on probation. She was also required to pay \$1,000 to the Ethics Commission"



HIGHLIGHTED CASES (CONT'D)

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local government*

CASE PI 18-38



Model City Community Advisory Committee (MC CAC): The County Public Housing and Community Development Department uses Community Advisory Committees to provide impacted community input to County housing policy. The investigation revealed that Model City CAC had been neglected and defunct for many years and that at least two members had engaged in potentially ethical misconduct. Also, the investigation indicated that the County Housing Department may have been non-compliant with its US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rules relating to required Citizen Participation Plan activities. As a result of the investigative findings and report to the County Housing Department Director, the County initiated a process to abolish the Model City Advisory Committee.



HIGHLIGHTED CASES (CONT'D)

*Building trust and confidence
in local government*

CASE K 19-38

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department: The County Fire Department took measures to shut-down an unauthorized pay-to-park scheme that had been in existence for many years at Station 39 on Watson Island in October 2019. This was a result of an Ethics Commission investigation into firefighters allowing members of the public to park there in exchange for cash donations to the station's petty cash fund. The investigation found that the firefighters at the station were permitting firefighters from other departments, family members of firefighters and even the clients of a travel agent who went to high school with the sister of a firefighter to use the lot when they went on cruises. The firefighters accepted thousands of dollars in cash donations from cruise patrons who otherwise would have had to pay more than \$150 to park at a county-owned garage near the cruise terminal. The donations went into the station "kitty," which covered supplies for the kitchen, the cable bills, and other miscellaneous expenses. Records kept by the firefighters show the donations funded small luxuries like a cast iron skillet and a salad spinner. This practice was ended after command staff was contacted by Ethics Commission staff.



ETHICS TRAINING AND OUTREACH

The agency continued its on-site, in-the-field, live, videoconference and teleconference training and outreach for elected officials, candidates, advisory board members, quasi-judicial board members and the public. Understandably, our numbers reflect a reduction from the last fiscal year caused by local orders restricting in-person and group gatherings in public buildings.

We continued to use our partnerships to amplify our efforts. We partnered with the jurisdiction's League of Cities, the County Elections Department, municipal Clerks, City Attorneys, and local law firms, radio and television, to provide additional and expanded training and outreach opportunities.

Ethics Commission staff additionally reached hundreds of new County employees and County, City of Miami, and Jackson Health System lobbyists and vendor representatives with on-line training.

Each training contact with a government, not-for-profit, or private educational entity, also served the Commission's outreach charge by including not only ethics training but Commission on Ethics messaging.

Again, while we were hampered by the interruptions caused by the pandemic in the second half of the fiscal year, we nevertheless engaged in approximately seventy events.



Ethics Training and Outreach



70 Events

INDEPENDENCE. TRUTH. FAIRNESS.

1. Ethics Training for Fall Legal Internship Program, Ethics Commission, October 2019.
2. Public Health Trust, Ethics Training for Trustees, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, October 2019.
3. WLQY 1320 AM Radio, Translated Haitian Creole Language Presentation About the Ethics Commission, October 2019.
4. Eight Annual Ethical Governance Day, with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Multiple High Schools County-Wide, with over 150 Volunteer Speakers, October 2019.
5. Ethics Training for visiting Elected Officials, Journalists, and Academics from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Miami Airport Expo Center, October 2019.
6. County Advisory Board Training, Ethics Commission Office, October 2019.
7. Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Board Training for County Procurement Selection Committees, October 2019.
8. City of Miami Quarterly Ethics Briefing for Directors and Members of Boards and Committees, City of Miami Commission Chambers, October 2019.



Ethics Training and Outreach

70 Events

INDEPENDENCE. TRUTH. FAIRNESS.

9. Dade Miami Criminal Justice Council Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Meeting Training for Council Members, State of Florida Rhode Building, October 2019.
10. Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Board Training for County Procurement Selection Committees, November 2019.
11. Ethics Training for Elected and Appointed Officials, Commission Chambers, Town of Surfside, Florida, November 2019. (Northeast County)
12. Ethics Training for Elected Officials, with Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Grapeland Heights Community Center, Miami, Florida, November 2019. (Central County)
13. Ethics Training for Elected and Appointed Miami Dade Community Council Members, November 2019.
14. Miami Dade Procurement Expo Ethics Briefing for Prospective County Contractors, with County Internal Services Procurement Staff, November 2019.
15. Municipal Advisory Board and Employee Training for Bay Harbor Islands, Town of Bay Harbor Islands, November 2019.
16. County Advisory Board Training, Ethics Commission Office, November 2019.
17. Miami Beach Mass Transit Line, Special Project Vendor and Lobbyist Training, County Internal Services Procurement Department, December 2019.

Ethics Training and Outreach (cont'd)



70 Events

INDEPENDENCE. TRUTH. FAIRNESS.

18. County Advisory Board Training, Ethics Commission Office, December 2019.
19. Ethics Training for Elected Officials, with Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Commission Chambers, Miami Gardens, Florida, December 2019. (Northwest County)
20. Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Board Training for County Procurement Selection Committees, December 2019.
21. The Children's Trust, Ethics Training for Trust Members, Miami, January 2020.
22. Ethics Training for Newly Elected Officials from the City of Miami, City of Miami Commission Chambers, January 2020.
23. Ethics Code Financial Disclosure Training for the City of Hialeah Clerk's Office, remote, January 2020.
24. Ethics Code Training for Jackson Health Systems Prospective Vendors, remote, January 2020.
25. Ethics Code Financial Disclosure and Outside Employment Training, County Departmental Personnel Representatives, County Hall, January 2020.
26. Miami Dade County Board Liaison Ethics Training, County Commission Chambers, January 2020.
27. Dade Miami Criminal Justice Council Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Meeting Training for Council Members, State of Florida Rhode Building, January 2020.


Ethics Training and Outreach (cont'd)



70 Events

INDEPENDENCE. TRUTH. FAIRNESS.

28. County Advisory Board Training, Ethics Commission Office, January 2020.
29. Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Board Training for County Procurement Selection Committees, January 2020.
30. City of Miami Quarterly Ethics Briefing for Directors of Boards or Committees and Board Members, City of Miami Commission Chambers, January 2020.
31. Ethics Training for Village of Palmetto Bay Employees, Palmetto Bay, January 2020.
32. County Advisory Board Training, Ethics Commission Office, February 2020.
33. Ethical Campaign Practices Training for Candidates and Incumbents with the Miami-Dade Elections Department, Commission Chambers, West Miami, Florida, February 2020.
34. Ethics Training for Newly Elected Officials from Miami and Miami Beach, Ethics Commission Offices, February 2020.
35. St. Thomas University School of Law, Student Recruitment and Informational Meetings, February 2020.
36. Ethics Training for Homestead Agricultural Practices Advisory Board, Homestead, Florida, February 2020.
37. Ethics Training for Opa Locka Employees, Opa Locka, Florida, February 2020.




Ethics Training and Outreach (cont'd)

70 Events

INDEPENDENCE. TRUTH. FAIRNESS.

38. Ethics Training for Miami Dade Community Action and Human Services Advisory Board, February 2020.
39. Ethics Code “Mom and Pop Grants” Training for County Transit and Public Works Department, remote, February 2020.
40. University of Miami School of Law, Student Recruitment and Informational Meetings, February 2020.
41. Mega Television, 2020 Con Tomas Regalado, Spanish Language Presentation About the Ethics Commission, with COE Chairman Bellido, March 2020.
42. County-wide Municipal Ethics Officers Training, Coral Gables, March 2020.
43. Police Management Training including Ethics Component, Miami Dade Police Department Training Bureau, March 2020.
44. Ethics Training for the Miami Dade Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Advisory Board, March 2020.
45. Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Board Training for County Procurement Selection Committees, March 2020.
46. Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Board Training for County Procurement Selection Committees, via Zoom platform March 2020.
47. Ethics Code Outside Employment Training for County Internal Services Department, March 2020.




Ethics Training and Outreach (cont'd)

70 Events

INDEPENDENCE. TRUTH. FAIRNESS

- 48. Ethics Code Financial Disclosure and Outside Employment Training for County Internal Services Department, April 2020.
- 49. Ethical Campaign Practices Training for Candidates and Incumbents with Surfside Municipal Clerk and Municipal Bar, via Zoom Platform, April 2020.
- 50. Overview of County Ethics Code for County Public Housing and Community Development Department, remote, May 2020.
- 51. Ethics Training for Elected Officials and Appointed Officials, with Miami-Dade County League of Cities, via Zoom Platform, May 2020. (Countywide)
- 52. Ethics Code Training for Jackson Health Systems Prospective Vendors, remote, May 2020.
- 53. Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Board Training for County Procurement Selection Committees, via Zoom platform, May 2020.
- 54. Public Health Trust, Ethics Training for Trustees, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, via Zoom platform, June 2020.
- 55. Ethics Training for Elected and Appointed Officials in El Portal, Florida, via Zoom Platform, June 2020.
- 56. Ethics Code Financial Disclosure Training for North Miami Elected Clerk, remote, June 2020.
- 57. County Advisory Board Training, via Zoom platform, June 2020.



Ethics Training and Outreach (cont'd)

70 Events

INDEPENDENCE. TRUTH. FAIRNESS

58. Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Board Training for County Procurement Selection Committees, via Zoom June 2020.

59. Ethics Code Training for Jackson Health Systems Prospective Vendors, remote, June 2020.

60. Ethics Code Financial Disclosure Training for County Commissioner Staff, remote, June 2020.

61. City of Miami Quarterly Ethics Briefing for Directors of Boards or Committees and Board Members, via Zoom platform, July 2020.

62. County Advisory Board Training, via Zoom platform, July 2020.

63. Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Board Training for County Procurement Selection Committees, via Zoom, July 2020.

64. Ethics and Elections Training for Candidates in Opa Locka, Florida, via Zoom, August 2020.

65. Ethics Training for Village of Biscayne Park Advisory Boards, via Zoom platform, August 2020.

66. County Advisory Board Training, via Zoom platform, August 2020.

67. Ethics, Public Records, and Sunshine Board Training for County Procurement Selection Committees, via Zoom platform September 2020.

Ethics Training and Outreach (cont'd)



70 Events

INDEPENDENCE. TRUTH. FAIRNESS.

68. Ethical Campaign Practices Training for Candidates and Incumbents with the Miami-Dade Elections Department, via Zoom Platform, September 2020.

69. Ethical Government Day Training for Miami Dade County Public Schools, High School Civics and Government, Video Messaging to be distributed County-wide as part of single day curriculum, September 2020.

70. Social Media and Government Communications: Constitutional, Ethical and Statutory Considerations, Continuing Legal Education Outreach to Attorneys, with Weiss Serota Helfman and Stearns Weaver Miller law firms, via Zoom platform, September 2020.

Ethical Governance Day 2020



PROPOSED LEGISLATION & MACRO PROCEDURE PROJECTS

The Ethics Commission staff continued its collaboration with elected officials and policy makers regarding refinement and strengthening of the County Ethics Code, municipal ethics codes, as well as County and municipal policies and procedures to promote good and ethical governance and transparency.

1. Collaboration with the Miami Dade County Commission (Vice Chair Rebecca Sosa), County's Procurement Staff and the Inspector General, regarding revisions to the County Ethics Code's Lobbyist and Cone of Silence Sections.
2. Collaboration with the Miami-Dade Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners regarding the lobbyist "principal" reporting procedures and increasing compliance with lobbyist registration requirements in the County Ethics Code.
3. Collaboration with the City of Opa Locka and the Inspector General regarding the establishment of a municipal Employee Protection (Whistleblower) Ordinance affording protection to Opa Locka employees.
4. Collaboration with Miami-Dade County Internal Service Procurement Division regarding revisions to procurement Selection Committee procedures.
5. Collaboration with Miami-Dade County Internal Service Procurement Division and the Inspector General regarding revisions to procurement Implementing Orders.



PROPOSED LEGISLATION & MACRO PROCEDURE PROJECTS (CONT'D)

6. Collaboration with Miami-Dade County Human Resources and Elections Departments regarding County employee outside employment and income reporting procedures.
7. Collaboration with Miami-Dade Supervisor of Elections regarding revisions to Financial Disclosure Statement procedures.
8. Collaboration with Miami Dade County Florida Legislative Delegation and Florida House and Senate Ethics Committee leaders regarding local government lobbyist preemption legislation.
9. Collaboration with Charter Officer City Attorneys regarding proposed formal ethics opinion limiting public comment by elected officials on matters subject to voting conflicts.
10. Collaboration with Charter Officer City Attorneys regarding proposed formal ethics opinion regarding limits on small jurisdiction elected officials on traffic control matters.

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in local government*





REPORTING TO THE COUNTY & MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONS

1. Reporting to Chairwoman of the Board of County Commissioners regarding the County's deficient management and supervision of the Model City Community Advisory Committee in the Public Housing and Community Development Department arising out of a related Ethics Commission enforcement matter.
2. Reporting to the Mayor of Miami Dade County and the Board of County Commissioners regarding deficient public records maintenance and reporting procedures arising out of an Ethics Commission enforcement matter reviewing an international business development and mass transit information gathering trip by County elected officials and staff related local Miami Beach mass transit procurement.
3. Reporting to the North Miami Beach City Commission regarding conflict of interest and procurement procedures relating to the abolition of the in-house City Attorney Department and the selection of a private firm to serve as City Attorney.



THE MIAMI DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST STAFF



HAVE YOU SEEN UNETHICAL CONDUCT IN OUR GOVERNMENT?

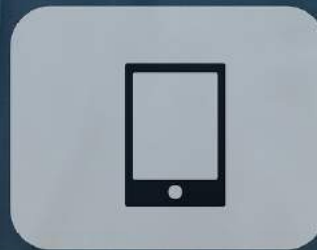
Report an Ethics

VIOLATION

HOTLINE: 786-314-9560

EMAIL: ETHICS@MIAMIDADE.GOV

WEB: ETHICS.MIAMIDADE.GOV



***YOU MAY REMAIN
ANONYMOUS***

MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

Independence. Truth. Fairness.



**2019-
2020**

ANNUAL REPORT



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