



MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST



FY 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

701 NW 1ST COURT
MIAMI, FL 33136

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A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Nelson C. Bellido



It has been an honor to serve as Chairperson of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust in 2021. This year the Ethics Commission celebrated 25 years of existence. The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 to serve as a guardian of the public trust. At our monthly Ethics Commission meetings, I often state that the “public trust” is paramount to what we do. Without the trust of the public that we serve, we have very little. For that reason, my fellow commissioners and the COE staff, who reflect our diverse community, work so hard to earn the public’s trust.

This year we said goodbye to the Ethics Commission’s longstanding Advocate Michael Murawski, who accepted a position as Executive Director of a sister Ethics Commission in Naples. We are very grateful for his service. We welcomed a new Advocate, in a familiar face in Radia Turay. Ms. Turay, who served as a former Ethics Commission Staff Attorney, was appointed in July 2021 after a rigorous interview process which included several outstanding candidates. As the Ethics Commission’s Advocate, Ms. Turay files and prosecutes complaints that come before the Commission.

We faced challenges this year as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and the Delta variant, but the Ethics Commission returned to live in-person meetings and continued to serve the residents of Miami-Dade County, which included hosting trials of former public officials. I thank my fellow Commissioners who give of their time as volunteers and good stewards of our community. We are fortunate to have some of the hardest working public servants in Vice Chair Dr. Judith Bernier, the Honorable Lawrence “Larry” Schwartz, Professor Charlton Copeland and Willy Gort. I also thank Executive Director Jose Arrojo, General Counsel Martha Perez, and all of the lawyers, investigators, interns, and exceptional staff that have stepped up during these challenging times. There is one longstanding staff member – the Ethics Commission Clerk Rachelle Ross, who I especially thank for her positive demeanor and always timely providing the Commissioners with all of the materials that we need in advance of our monthly meetings.

While it has been an honor and privilege to serve as Chairperson of the Ethics Commission, I look forward to passing the gavel on this year to a newly-elected chairperson in January. I know that she or he will continue to do the great work that the Ethics Commission has been doing for 25 years. While I often refer to the Ethics Commission as our county’s best hidden secret because of the nature of the work that we do, it is so important that the community know that that we are here to serve them and to continue to restore confidence in government. We thank our local elected officials who generally work very hard and we encourage them to use us as a sounding board and seek ethics opinions, especially if they have any questions about actions or decisions that pose any potential ethical pitfall.

Lastly, as always, I thank you, the residents of Miami-Dade County, for bestowing the Ethics Commission with the privilege of serving you. As the volunteer Chairperson of the Ethics Commission, and on behalf of my fellow Commissioners and the COE staff, I wish you all a very safe, happy and ethical 2022!

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jose Arrojo

In spite of continued challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic, in this past year the Ethics Commission flourished in the new environment created by the public health crisis. With safety protocols in place, live Ethics Commission meetings commenced anew, staff returned to the office, and we completed our first full year in our new larger and more modern space in the Overtown Transit Village, North Tower.

The Ethics Commission had a banner year in its ethics advice and guidance function. Ethics Commission lawyers provided over 200 ethics opinions to elected officials and staff. This was a marked increase over the prior year.

Likewise, we improved our training and outreach numbers for the year. The Ethics Commission increased training and outreach offerings to 84 live, virtual, and hybrid events. This represents a continuing year-over-year increase dating back to FY 2018-2019. Notably, Ethics Commission lawyers and staff fanned out across the County from Hialeah Gardens to Homestead, for in-person presentations with safety protocols.

As part of our enforcement function, the Ethics Commission's investigators engaged in 102 investigations, an increase over the past year. The Commission successfully prosecuted cases against elected officials from Miami Beach, Coral Gables, Opa Locka, and Medley. Two ethics cases resulted in arrests and criminal prosecutions.

Finally, we were able to collaborate with elected officials, county and municipal attorneys, and procurement professionals to streamline and improve county procurement processes, bring greater transparency to county hiring process, and



make changes to county and municipal lobbyist registration and practice ordinances.

As a result of staff retirements and employees separating to take on new positions in other jurisdictions, the Ethics Commission was able to hire experienced investigators that bring new perspectives to our work. We welcomed the appointment of an African American woman to the position of Advocate. Ms. Turay joins General Counsel Martha Perez as part of the COE's leadership team.

On the budget front, we were once again careful and frugal with the people's money and finished the year within our allotted county budget.

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.



ABOUT THE COMMISSION

About Us

The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as a result of a citizens' vote to amend the County Home Rule Charter. It is an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers led by five appointed commissioners. It is staffed by lawyers, investigators, and community outreach specialists.

Mission

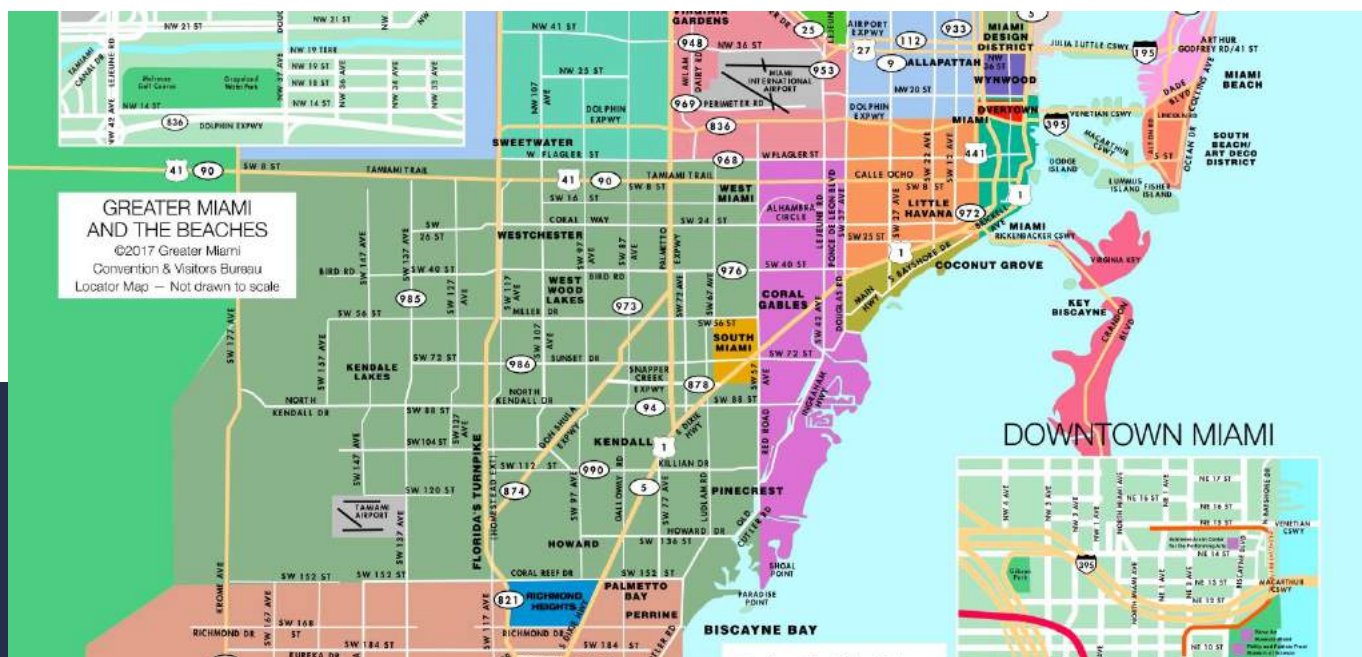
The mission of the Ethics Commission is to ensure the integrity of local governance and electoral processes, restore public confidence in government, and serve as the guardian of the public trust.

JURISDICTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In its training, outreach, and public information function, the Commission provides ethics training to County and municipal elected officials and candidates, board members, employees, and lobbyists. Staff also provides ethics training to non-profit agencies, professional associations, educational institutions, and community groups, through workshops, conferences, and public meetings.

In its guidance function, the Commission provides ethics advice and written opinions to persons within its jurisdiction as to the proper interpretation or applicability of the County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, Municipal Ethics Ordinances, and other local laws.

In its ethics investigation, prosecution, and compliance functions, Commission staff conduct investigations of violations of the County Conflict of Interest and Ethics Ordinance, Municipal Ethics Ordinances, and other County ordinances within its jurisdiction, and issues investigative reports. Where probable cause exists, violations are prosecuted as ethics complaints before the Commission.



The Commission's jurisdiction includes elected officials, employees and advisory board members in Miami-Dade County and its 34 municipalities. Some rules and ordinances also extend to lobbyists and contract vendors. The Ethics Commission has jurisdiction over the following ordinances:

- THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CODE OF ETHICS ORDINANCE
- THE ETHICAL CAMPAIGN PRACTICES ORDINANCE
- ALL MUNICIPAL ETHICS CODES
- THE COUNTY EMPLOYEE PROTECTION ORDINANCE
- THE COUNTY CHARTERS' CITIZEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS
- MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HONOR CODE

Meet the Commissioners



NELSON C. BELLIDO, ESQ.
CHAIRMAN



JUDITH BERNIER
VICE CHAIR

CHAIRMAN BELLIDO

Nelson C. Bellido was appointed to the Ethics Commission by then Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit, Joel Brown, in July 2010. Mr. Bellido is a managing partner in a Miami-based law firm, a former adjunct professor of Business Law at Florida Memorial College, and worked with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office from 1993 to 1997. He is a past 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.

VICE CHAIR BERNIER

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 private industry as a human resource manager and trainer for a national retailer. She has been an Ethics Commissioner since May 2014.

Meet the Commissioners



**JUDGE LAWRENCE A.
SCHWARTZ, ESQ.**
COMMISSIONER



**WIFREDO
"WILLY" GORT**
COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ

Judge Lawrence A. Schwartz was appointed to serve on the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust by then 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.

COMMISSIONER GORT

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.

Meet the Commissioners



**CHARLTON
COPELAND, ESQ.**
COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER COPELAND

This past year, University of Miami Law Professor, Charlton Copeland, was appointed by the Law School Dean, as a new Commissioner on the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, replacing colleague, Professor Jan Jacobowitz.

Professor Copeland brings deep expertise and served on the Commission from 2010-2014, including in the role of Chair from 2012 to 2013. He teaches administrative law, constitutional law, civil procedure, the regulatory state, and other courses related to government regulation. Professor Copeland brings a commitment to fair process and transparency that is as essential to the effective functioning of our local democracy. In addition to being a preeminent scholar, he is dedicated to teaching and public service. Professor Copeland has recently been named the recipient of the 2021 Clyde Ferguson Award, given by the American Association of Law Schools to an outstanding law teacher, who in the course of his or her career has achieved excellence in the areas of public service, teaching, and scholarship.

***BUILDING TRUST AND
CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT***

NEW FACES AT THE COE

Staffing

NEW ADVOCATE APPOINTED

The Ethics Commission selected Staff Attorney Radia Turay as only the second Ethics Commission Advocate in the agency’s two-decade history. Ms. Turay was selected after the Ethics Commission engaged in a competitive selection process that included public interviews of half a dozen very qualified finalist candidates.

The Advocate is the Ethics Commission’s prosecutor and works closely with our investigators in discharging the agency’s ethics enforcement charge.



Rodney Vega, Investigator

Before joining the COE in June, Rodney served over two decades with the New York City Police Department as a Detective and Sergeant before holding positions in South Florida, including as an ethics investigator for the Florida Bar.

Kelly Reid, Lead Investigator

Before joining the COE, Kelly served 23 years as a law enforcement officer with the Miami Beach Police Department, retiring as a Lieutenant. She also served eight years as as a Councilperson for the Town of Bay Harbor Islands.

Nolen "Drew" Bunker, Staff Attorney

Before joining the COE, Drew was a Felony and Public Corruption prosecutor with the State Attorney’s Office in Miami. He previously served as a judicial Staff Attorney for the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in Atlanta and as a law clerk in the US District Court for the Middle District of Florida in Orlando.

STAFFING/BUDGET

2020-2021 COMMISSION ON ETHICS

Commission on Ethics and Public Trust - Staffing Chart/Table of Organization FY 2020-21 Proposed Budget

Office of Executive Director				
FY 19-20	Occ. Code	Title	FY 20-21	
1	8840	Director	1	
1	8836	Executive Assistant	1	
1	8809	Administrative Officer	1	
3			3	

Legal Unit				
FY 19-20	Occ. Code	Title	FY 20-21	
1	8814	General Counsel	1	
3	8813	Staff Attorney	3	
4			4	

Enforcement Unit				
FY 19-20	Occ. Code	Title	FY 20-21	
1	8818	Advocate	1	
1	8830	Auditor	1	
4	8833	Investigator	4	
1	0095	Executive Secretary	1	
7			7	

Education and Outreach Unit				
FY 19-20	Occ. Code	Title	FY 20-21	
1	8816	Community Outreach Coord	1	
1	8815	Comm Affairs & Pub Info Spec	1	
2			2	

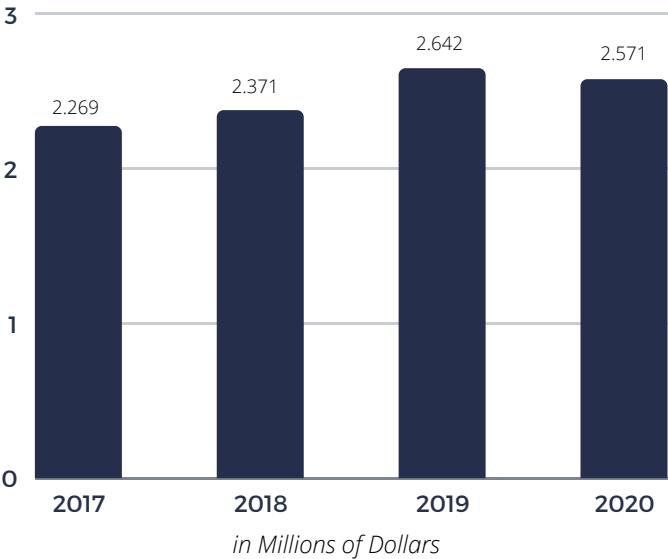
STAFFING

The COE is funded for a staff of 16 full time positions including 6 attorneys, 5 investigators, and 5 community outreach, and administrative and support staff team members.

Total Position Count		
FY 19-20		FY 20-21
16	Full-Time	16

BUDGET

Pursuant to County ordinance, the County is required to provide the Ethics Commission with financial support as part of the official County budget. It is noteworthy that while the agency has jurisdiction in the County, Jackson Health Systems, and all 34 municipalities, its annual budget is amongst the smallest in all of County service, coming just ahead of the law library and teen court. This fiscal year's budget was just over 2.5 million.



16

Full Time COE Staff
Members

2.571

Million Dollar Operating
Budget for Fiscal Year
2020-2021

34

Municipalities Under COE
Jurisdiction in Addition
to the County



ETHICS OPINIONS AND GUIDANCE

INQ'S

162

Provided to County and
Municipal elected officials,
board members, employees,
lobbyists, and vendors.

36

HOUSING INQ'S

18

SECTION 8 HOUSING
OPINIONS

216

TOTAL OPINIONS FOR
YEAR. +61 OVER LAST
YEAR

300+

INFORMAL ETHICS
CONSULTATIONS

ETHICS OPINIONS & GUIDANCE

The Ethics Commission's lawyers provided approximately 216 ethics opinions, including two formal 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.



RQO
2021-01

ETHICS CODE ALLOWS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL TO HOST A RADIO SHOW - WITH CAUTIONARY ADVICE

A County Commissioner was advised that the Ethics Code allows outside employment as a radio broadcaster when the employing radio station is also a County contractor. Such employment does not impair the independence of judgment in the performance of public duties as long as the Commissioner abides by certain limitations imposed by the Code. The Commissioner was encouraged to exercise caution if County officers or employees, or other County Commissioners, appear on the program so as to avoid the appearance of misuse of official position as well as the perception of possible collusion or improper communications between elected officials, even if the topic of discussion is not one likely to be considered and voted upon by the County Commission.

RQO
2021-02

BOARD MEMBER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIRED WHEN THE BOARD HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ACT

The Executive Director of a County Board was advised that the Ethics Code does not require members of a County Board to file a financial statement until such time as the board reaches half of its full membership. The Ethics Code's financial disclosure requirements are meant to increase transparency and dispel any conflicts of interest or undue influence that may arise because of a member's service. A member cannot fulfill his or her duties and responsibilities unless the board meets the quorum requirement and its members have the authority to act or serve in an official capacity, either as a body or as individuals. Before then, they are not subjected to undue influence or conflicts of interests and hence, the financial disclosure provision in the Ethics Code does not require them to file financial statements until such time as Board reaches half-full membership and the members have the ability to serve.



INQ
2020-104

**INFORMAL OPINION ADVISES ELECTED OFFICIAL
AGAINST APPEARING BEFORE A MUNICIPAL BOARD**

A City Commissioner was advised that while Ethics Code permits his appearance before boards or committees in his city to express his personal support or opposition to an item of public importance, such an appearance may tend to negate the independence of the city board and may also undermine the impartiality of these boards which have been created to provide independent advice to the city’s legislative body. As a matter of public policy, the Ethics Commission cautions against the practice.

INQ
2020-126

**INFORMAL OPINION CAUTIONS ELECTED OFFICIAL
AGAINST LOBBYING AFTER COMPLETING TERM**

A County Commissioner was advised that after completing his term, he may engage with the County as a principal in a private firm or on behalf of third parties for a period of two years after his or her County service has ceased, as long as he does not lobby any County officer, departmental personnel, or employee. The Ethics Commission emphasizes that lobbying activities, generally defined as encouragement or advocacy, are prohibited.



INQ
2021-69

**INFORMAL OPINION ENCOURAGES MUNICIPAL
MAYOR TO DECLINE VOTE ON ZONING MATTER**

A municipal Mayor was advised that while the Ethics Code permitted his consideration and vote on non-use variances and site plan approvals for a mixed-use development project, he was encouraged nevertheless to decline consideration and vote because he was previously engaged as a real estate broker in the sale of the parcel that was the subject of the vote.

INQ
2021-51

**INFORMAL OPINION ADVISES AGAINST COUNTY
EMPLOYEE SERVICE ON A COUNTY BOARD**

A County employee was advised that Ethics Code would prohibit her service as an appointed member on a County Board that had policy and oversight responsibilities for the programs that she was assigned to administer. This opinion is in keeping with other ethics opinions that caution against the practice of board service by employees when the board has policy oversight over the employee’s department or related programs.

ENFORCEMENT

The Commission has been significantly engaged during the fiscal year in over 100 investigations, 35 complaints, and responding to close to 150 hotline calls from the general public.

Additionally, the section's Investigators, Advocate, and assisting Staff Attorneys have partnered with the State Attorney's Office on several matters that originated with Ethics Commission investigations.

INVESTIGATIONS

102

Initiated based on alleged ethics violations

COMPLAINTS

35

Initiated by outside third parties or self-initiated by the COE

REFERRALS

94

Responses to alleged ethics violations referred to other agencies

HOTLINE CALL
RESPONSES

147

Calls that were responded to

MIAMI BEACH
LOBBYIST APPEALS

17

Filed by lobbyists that have been sanctioned by Miami Beach for late or insufficient expenditure filings





Happenings this past fiscal year

HIGHLIGHTED CASES

PI 20-33 Arrest and Prosecution

A joint investigation between the COE and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Multi-Agency Public Corruption Unit Task Force, led to the arrest and charging of a Town of Medley Councilwoman. The case arose from an ethics investigation conducted by the COE. The investigation revealed that the Councilwoman used her outside employment with a nonprofit foundation, where she serves as its Executive Director, to sell donated food items from local food banks in violation of a donor agreement with the Feeding America Network, a nonprofit food bank serving needy residents of South Florida. The Councilwoman was arrested and charged with a First-Degree Felony count of Organized Scheme to Defraud and Second Degree Felony Grand Theft. She was subsequently removed from office by the Governor.

This same Councilwoman had been previously sanctioned twice by the Ethics Commission. In October 2021, the Ethics Commission reprimanded and fined her for violating the Ethics Code's voting conflict and exploitation of public position provisions, when in her official capacity as Councilwoman for the Town of Medley, she used the power of her office to sponsor, discuss, and vote on an item that granted the Santana Moss Foundation the special benefit of gaining permanent access into the Lakeside Retirement Park in Medley. In June 2021, the Councilwoman was reprimanded and fined for using the Medley Town logo in flyers from "the Office of Councilwoman" that were purportedly intended to "educate" voters in the Town about the upcoming elections, when the evidence revealed that the flyer was actually purposed to encourage residents to vote for her and the slate of candidates she was endorsing for other elected offices in the Town.



Happenings this past fiscal year

HIGHLIGHTED CASES

PI 19-10 - Arrest and Prosecution

A joint investigation between the COE and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Multi-Agency Public Corruption Unit Task Force and Economic Crimes Unit led to the arrest and charging of a South Florida man. The case arose from allegations of a potential prohibited conflict of interest under the Miami-Dade Ethics Code involving the Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust Board (MDEAT). The Ethics Commission's review of public records relating to an MDEAT program that provides second forgivable balloon mortgages to low-income eligible buyers to help them with down payments and closing costs, revealed a possible straw mortgage scheme.

The subject of the investigation engaged an intellectually disabled man as a straw buyer to fraudulently obtain a first mortgage from a private lender and a second mortgage from Miami-Dade County. Approximately \$120,000 in private lender and Miami-Dade County funds were obtained as part of the fraudulent transaction.

As a result, the subject was arrested on August 27, 2021, and charged with Organized Scheme to Defraud, Grand Theft First Degree, Mortgage Fraud, and Grand Theft Third Degree.



Happenings this past fiscal year

HIGHLIGHTED CASES

C 19-05-02 - Ethics Complaint & Assessment of Fines

A former City of Opa-Locka Commissioner, was found to be in violation of the Financial Disclosure and Conflicting Employment sections of the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code and was ordered to pay \$1,000 in fines and \$1,000 in investigative costs.

At a public hearing it was alleged that Commissioner violated the exploitation of official position and financial disclosure sections of the County Ethics Code by interfering with police officers responding to a landlord tenant dispute and failing to disclose his financial relationship with the building's owners.

C 18-17-04 - Ethics Complaint and Assessment of Fines

The Commission found that that a former Miami Beach City Commissioner, and current State Representative, violated the Home Rule Charter's Citizens' Bill of Rights relating to Truth in Government when he denied involvement with People for Better Leaders, a political action committee. The Representative had previously given two separate statements stating he did not have a PAC.

The Commission issued the elected official a Letter of Instruction and ordered him to pay \$1,000 in investigative costs.

ETHICS TRAINING & OUTREACH

84 TOTAL SESSIONS FOR THE YEAR
UP 14 FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

“

Ethics Commission staff continued on-site and in-the-field training for elected officials, candidates, County and municipal advisory and quasi-judicial board members.

”

October 2020

- Ethics training for the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for City of Miami General Employees’ & Sanitation Employees’ (GESE) Retirement Trust.
- Quarterly Ethics Briefing for City of Miami Executive Directors of Boards or Committees.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.



ETHICS TRAINING & OUTREACH (CONT'D)

“

The COE continued to expand our partnerships with municipal associations to provide additional and expanded training opportunities.

”

November 2020

- Ethics training for the South Florida Building Officials Association.
- One-on-One Showcase of the Commission on Ethics for the South Florida Chapter of the American Society of Public Administrators.
- Bi-Annual Ethics Training and Member Orientation for Community Council Board Members (on site at County Commission Chambers).
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for Miami-Dade County Youth Commission.
- Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.



ETHICS TRAINING & OUTREACH (CONT'D)



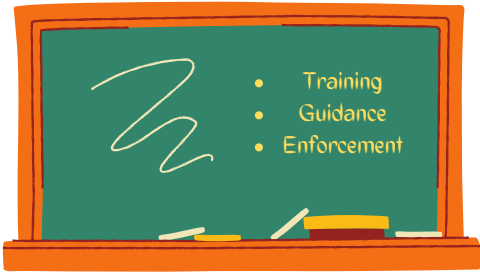
“
Each training contact with a government, not-for-profit, or private educational entity, also serves the Commission's outreach charge by including not only ethics training but Commission on Ethics messaging.
”



December 2020

- Ethics training for the Early Learning Coalition Board of Directors.
- Local and State Ethics, Public Records, and Public Board training for local government elected officials in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County League of Cities.
- Local Ethics, Public Records, and Public Board Training for County Commissioner Rene Garcia and Staff (on site in Hialeah, Florida).
- Local Ethics, Public Records, and Public Board Training for Miami Gardens Councilman Robert Stephens.
- Local Ethics, Public Records, and Public Board Training for County Commissioner Raquel Regalado and Staff.
- Local Ethics, Public Records, and Public Board Training for County Commissioner Daniella Cohen Higgins and Staff.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.

ETHICS TRAINING & OUTREACH (CONT'D)



January 2021

- Webinar: The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) in 2021: An Overview in collaboration with the Florida International University Global Legal Studies Initiative.
- Local Ethics Training for The Childrens’ Trust Board of Directors.
- Local Ethics, Public Records, and Public Board Training for the Village of Biscayne Park, elected officials, charter officers and staff.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Ethics Training for Opa-locka Employees.
- Financial Disclosure training to County and municipal staff. 26. Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.

February 2021

- Clean Campaign Practices Training for local government candidates for office and incumbents in North Dade, in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Elections Department.
- Local Ethics, Public Records, and Public Board Training for County Commissioner Oliver Gilbert’s Staff.
- Advisory Board Member Ethics Briefing for Village of Biscayne Park.
- Ethics Briefing for the City of Opa-Locka Employees.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.
- Financial Disclosure training to County and municipal staff.

ETHICS TRAINING & OUTREACH (CONT'D)



March 2021

- Ethics Commission Complaint Process for the Tallahassee Independent Ethics Board, Chairperson, and staff.
- Local and State Ethics, Public Records, and Public Board training for local government elected officials.
- New Board Member Orientation Ethics Training for Public Health Trust Board.
- Ethics Training for County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and Mayoral Staff in collaboration with the County Attorney’s Office (on site in the Stephen P. Clark Building).
- Ethics Training for the Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Advisory Board.
- Ethics Training for the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner’s Office in collaboration with the County Attorney’s Office.
- Ethics Training for Miami Lakes employees.
- Advisory Board Member Ethics Briefing for Community Action and Human Services Department.
- Ethics Training Workshop: Tallies, Due Diligence, Invitation to Quote, & Cone of Silence for Miami-Dade Procurement Staff.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.

April 2021

- Webinar: Best Legal and Ethical Practices for Local Government Procurement and Purchasing, in collaboration with Florida Atlantic University and Miami-Dade County Procurement.
- Local Ethics, Public Records, and Public Board Training for County Commissioner Joe Martinez and Staff.
- Presentation to the Hialeah City Council regarding Conflicting Outside Employment for Elected Officials and proposed amendments to the Hialeah Code of Ethics Ordinance (on site at Hialeah City Hall).

ETHICS TRAINING & OUTREACH (CONT'D)



April 2021 (cont'd)

- Presentation: “Politics, Ethics, and Crime: Policing Democracy when Politicians behave badly” as part of the Florida Bar’s 11th Annual Bench and Bar Conference.
- Quarterly Ethics Briefing for City of Miami Executive Directors of Boards or Committees and Board Members.
- Annual Ethics Training for The Childrens’ Trust staff members.
- Advisory Board Member Ethics Briefing for the Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.

May 2021

- Local Ethics, Public Records, and Public Board Training for Hialeah Gardens Elected Officials (on site at Hialeah Gardens City Hall).
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for North Miami Beach City Beautification and Multicultural Committees in collaboration with North Miami Beach City Attorney.
- Local Ethics Training for the Southern Association of Code Enforcement Officers (on site in Homestead, Florida).
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for the Driver’s License Suspension Task Force (on site at County Commission Chambers).
- Local Ethics, Public Records, and Public Board Training for Bay Harbor Islands Charter Officers and Senior Staff (on site in Bay Harbor Islands Town Hall).
- Advisory Board Ethics Briefing for the City of Opa-Locka Advisory Board Members.
- Advisory Board Member Ethics Briefing for Village of Biscayne Park (on-site training in Biscayne Park).

ETHICS TRAINING & OUTREACH (CONT'D)



May 2021 (cont'd)

- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.

June 2021

- Ethics Training for Airport Vendors and Contractors (on site at Miami International Airport).
- Dual Webinar and Live Training: Best Practices Training for Municipal Clerks in collaboration with the Municipal Clerks Association, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, and the City of North Miami (on site at the Joe Celestin Center in North Miami).
- Ethics Training as part of the Procurement Summer Academy for Miami-Dade County.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.
- Financial Disclosure Training for County advisory board liaisons.

July 2021

- Presentation to the Coral Gables City Commission regarding Limitations on Political Consultants Lobbying former Client Elected Officials and proposed amendments to the Coral Gables Code of Ethics Ordinance. (on site at Coral Gables City Hall).
- Ethics Training for Procurement Competitive Selection Committees in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Internal Services Department.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Citizen's Advisory Committees via ZOOM, July 9, 2021.
- Quarterly Ethics Briefing for City of Miami Executive Directors of Boards or Committees and Board Members.

ETHICS TRAINING & OUTREACH (CONT'D)



July 2021 (cont'd)

- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.

August 2021

- Haitian Community Outreach re: Ethics Commission, translated to Kreyòl in collaboration with WLQY, South Florida’s International Station (on site in North Miami Studios).
- Clean Campaign Practices Training for local government candidates for office and incumbents in Homestead and South Dade, in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Elections Department.
- Advisory Board Ethics Briefing for City of Miami Beach Advisory Board Staff and Advisory Board Members (on site at Miami Beach Commission Chambers).
- Ethics Training Workshop: Conflicts of Interest in Staff Recruitment & Conflict of Interest Disclosures for Miami-Dade County in collaboration with Miami-Dade Human Resources Department.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.

September 2021

- Ethics Briefing for Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department.
- Advisory Board Ethics Briefing for City of Coral Gables (on site in Coral Gables Public Works Building).
- Webinar: Becoming a Certified Business with Miami-Dade County for the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce.
- Advisory Board Ethics Training for County and municipal board members.
- Ethics Training Workshop for Selection Committee Members.

ORDINANCE, RULE & POLICY PROVISIONS

The Ethics Commission continued collaborations with elected officials and policy makers regarding refinement and strengthening of the County and Municipal Ethics Codes and local government rules and policies.

- 01 Revisions to County Implementing Order 3-34 regarding Formation and Performance of Selection Committees
- 02 Revisions to the County Neutrality Affidavit for Procurement Selection Committee Members
- 03 Revisions to the County Lobbyist Ordinance, Sec. 2-11.1(s), County Code
- 04 Revisions to the Coral Gables Lobbyist Ordinance re: Prohibitions on Political Consultants
- 05 Proposed Revisions to the Hialeah Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance regarding Prohibitions on Outside Employment by Mayor and Senior Staff
- 06 Revisions to County Nepotism and Conflict of Interest Disclosures in Personnel Recruitment
- 07 Amended Guidance to County and Municipal Employees in Political Campaigns
- 08 Revisions to the County Organizational Conflict of Interest Provisions in Bid Solicitation Documents
- 09 Revisions to County Vendor Procurement Forms
- 10 Continuing Revisions to County Lobbyist Contingency Fee Affidavit

MEET OUR TEAM

Our Dedicated Team of Professionals



JOSE ARROJO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MARTHA PEREZ
GENERAL COUNSEL



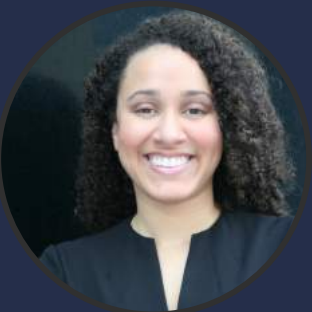
RADIA TURAY
ADVOCATE



NOLEN BUNKER
STAFF ATTORNEY



ETTA AKONI
STAFF ATTORNEY



LORESSA FELIX
STAFF ATTORNEY



RODZANDRA SANCHEZ
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



ONAIVYS DIAZ
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



LEONARDO MENDOZA
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFC.



RACHELLE ROSS
COMMISSION CLERK



KARL ROSS
INVESTIGATOR / FORENSIC
ACCOUNTANT



KELLY REID
LEAD INVESTIGATOR



NILDA OLMO
INVESTIGATOR



RODNEY VEGA
INVESTIGATOR



SUSANNAH NESMITH
INVESTIGATOR



ROBERT THOMPSON
OUTREACH COORDINATOR

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ethics@miamidade.gov
www.ethics.miamidade.gov
305-579-2594

ANNUAL REPORT

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