

**MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST  
APRIL 24, 2008 MEETING SUMMARY  
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Complaints

07-28: The Commission on Ethics held a status conference concerning the complaint against Bal Harbour Councilman Joel Jacobi, who allegedly failed to comply with the financial disclosure rules contained in the County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance by filing financial disclosures that were incomplete and/or inaccurate.

08-04: The Commission on Ethics dismissed the complaint filed against Frank Pintado, Randall Hilliard and Charles Safdie for lack of probable cause due to the fact no proof was furnished or discovered that linked the objectionable campaign literature in the 2007 Miami Beach elections to any of the Respondents.

08-05: The Commission on Ethics granted the Advocate's Motion to Dismiss the complaint against Respondent Alex Gonzalez, who allegedly improperly lobbied the City of Opa-Locka officials on behalf of his employer, Waste Management of Florida, Inc. The Commission on Ethics found that Mr. Gonzalez merely answered questions posed to him by city officials at two public meetings and will provide him with an opinion on the subject of lobbying.

08-06: The Commission on Ethics found probable cause in a complaint against City of Miami Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones for allegedly failing to disclose a gift (the receipt of legal services valued at approximately \$46,000) during the time period of January 2006 through March 2007.

08-07: The Commission on Ethics found the whistleblower complaint filed by Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department employee Susan Root lacked sufficiency and dismissed the complaint.

08-08: The Commission on Ethics dismissed the complaint filed against Respondent Howard Berlin, Mayor of Bal Harbour Village and Respondent A. Anthony Noboa, both members of the Bal Harbour Resort Tax Committee, for lack of probable cause due to the fact neither respondent had a voting conflict when sitting as a Resort Tax Committee member.

Opinions

08-16: The Commission on Ethics opined that URS Corporation, currently serving as bond engineer for the Miami-Dade Seaport, may serve as a subcontractor to Transystems on work at the Seaport. The Commission found that the firm's work as bond engineer does not conflict with the requested work because the recommendations concern renovation and construction on property leased by a Seaport tenant that will be constructed and financed by the tenant rather than the Seaport. Accordingly, its review and recommendations will be separate and distinct from any recommendations made as bond engineer.

08-17: The Commission on Ethics opined that a former Assistant County Manager may serve as Principal in Charge of a design contract for a new fleet shop and maintenance facility for the county's General Services Administration department as long as he does not engage in any lobbying activity.

08-18: The Commission on Ethics opined that the firm of Lockwood, Andrews and Newman is not prohibited from providing design criteria for the replacement of the force main from Miami Beach to the Central District Wastewater Treatment Plant and the replacement of a water main from Port Island to Fisher Island when one of its employees had managed the 2004 Government Cut Feasibility Study, which was part of an addendum to the current solicitation. In the case of Jordan, Jones and Goulding, another firm that conducted planning studies related to the project, the Commission on Ethics opined that it was not prohibited from providing design criteria for the abovementioned replacement force main project.

08-19: The Commission on Ethics opined that the firm of Art, Design and Construction may not serve as construction company for the Cruise Terminal D Parking Garage contract at the Miami-Dade Seaport due to the fact a related company, Bruno-Elias Associates, provided design services for the parking garage and has responsibility for bidding, negotiating and construction phase services.

08-20: The Commission on Ethics opined that the County Department of Water and Sewer is not required to add language to an upcoming solicitation on a Coastal Wetlands Rehydration Project which would have limited the participation of Camp, Dresser and McKee (CDM) along with its subconsultants, CH2MHill and MSA, due to the fact that CDM and its subconsultants provided architectural and engineering services on a different version of the project to the Water and Sewer Department under a miscellaneous engineering agreement.

08-21: The Commission on Ethics opined that board members of the City of Miami Downtown Development Authority (DDA) who own real estate in downtown Miami accept free “see-through” shutters offered by the DDA as part of a program to improve the appearance of facades and increase safety in the downtown areas due to the fact the board members do not enter into contracts with their board, the program is strictly ministerial and the board members do not make official decisions regarding the implementation of the program.

In a related matter, the Commission on Ethics opined that the same board members may participate in a façade improvement program sponsored by the DDA that requires the applicants to contribute 25% of the costs because the administration and implementation of the program is conducted by the Downtown Miami Partnership, an independent 501(c)(3) corporation, not the DDA board itself.