

**MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST
MEETING SUMMARY
FEBRUARY 27, 2008
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ROBERT MEYERS @ (305) 350-0613**

Complaints

07-28: The Commission on Ethics accepted Respondent Joel Jacobi's stipulation to probable cause. Respondent Jacobi, a Bal Harbour City Councilman, failed to comply with the financial disclosure rules contained in the County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance because he filed financial disclosures that were allegedly incomplete and/or inaccurate.

07-45: The Commission on Ethics ratified the proposed settlement agreement between the Office of the Advocate and Respondent Dominic LaRocca which included the following terms: a fine of \$250 and a Letter of Instruction. Respondent LaRocca improperly lobbied Public Health Trust officials when a request for proposal was under the Cone of Silence.

08-02: The Commission on Ethics dismissed the complaint for lack of jurisdiction in connection with campaign finance related allegations against Judge David Miller, Attorney Mark Antonelli and Johnson and Wales University.

08-03: The Commission on Ethics dismissed the complaint for lack of legal sufficiency for the complainant's failure to timely notify the proper parties concerning claims made under the Whistleblower ordinance against Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation employees Timothy Ryan, Wanda McMullen and Denise Bendross.

Opinions

08-04: The Commission on Ethics opined that the County Parks and Recreation Department may contract with a business where one of its business partners is the spouse of a Parks Department employee as long as the partner does not own a controlling financial interest of the business. Furthermore, the Ethics Commission advised the requester that she could seek a waiver from the Board of County Commissioners.

08-05: The Commission on Ethics opined that Kimley-Horn Associates may provide architectural and engineering services related to the Miami River Greenway project although the firm is currently providing related services to the Trust for Public Land because its work for the Trust for Public Land should not interfere with the firm's independence of judgment in the performance of its obligations to Miami-Dade County. Furthermore, the Ethics Commission opined that Milian, Swain and Associates may serve as a subconsultant on the Kimley-Horn team although one of its principals is a member of an advisory committee for the Trust for Public Land due to the fact the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance does not extend to civic activities on non-governmental boards.

08-05: The Commission on Ethics opined that a pending procurement matter is defined as the date when the City of Miami Beach Commission referred a contract for review to a city committee, which means a person who contributed to the campaign of a successful candidate for the City of Miami Beach Commission may not lobby the City Commission on any pending procurement matter for twelve months following the candidate's swearing in once the matter was referred to committee.

08-03: The Commission on Ethics opined the Cone of Silence applies to joint development projects between Miami-Dade County and other public and private entities relative to the administration of the Building Better Bond Program. In particular, the Ethics Commission opined that the solicitation for a firm to provide architectural and engineering services in connection with the Miami River Greenway project would be covered by the Cone of Silence and would extend to outside entities that provide technical and or financial support to this project.

Ethics, Integrity and Accountability (EIA) Task Force Report

The Chairperson of the EIA Task Force presented the Ethics Commission with the list of nineteen recommendations the Task Force will be submitting to the Board of County Commissioners later in the year for review and consideration. The purpose of the presentation was to give the Ethics Commission an opportunity to provide feedback before circulating the recommendations to other interested parties.