

MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST
MAY 29, 2008
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Complaints

07-20: The Commission on Ethics approved the Joint Motion to Dismiss the complaint against Respondent Jose Napoles, a correctional officer with the Miami-Dade County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, for his failure to properly report his outside employment. Once advised the multiple rental property amounted to outside employment, Respondent filed the appropriate forms and the complaint was dismissed.

07-28: The Commission on Ethics rejected the settlement proposed by the Office of the Advocate and Respondent 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.

08-06: The Commission on Ethics ratified the settlement agreement proposed by the Office of the Advocate and Respondent City of Miami Commissioner Michelle Spence-Jones for not properly reporting the receipt of legal services valued at approximately \$46,000 during the time period of January 2006 through March 2007. Respondent Spence-Jones agreed to pay a \$500 and receive a Letter of Reprimand.

08-08: The Commission on Ethics dismissed the complaint filed against Respondent Randy Whitman and Respondent Lisa Perri-Molina, 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.

08-10: The Commission on Ethics found the retaliation claim made in a whistleblower complaint filed by Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department employee Susan Root lacked sufficiency and dismissed the complaint due to the fact the Ethics Commission concluded in a prior meeting that Ms. Root failed to meet the requirements for whistleblower protection.

Opinions

08-23: The Commission on Ethics opined that RAI Construction is permitted to become a registered county vendor even though the president's son-in-law works for the Miami-Dade County Public Works Department. The Commission stated that the son-in-law must not participate in any decision, action, oversight or management involving RAI Construction and the Public Works Department.

08-24: The Commission on Ethics opined that a County Commissioner employed as the Executive Director of the Richmond-Perrine Optimist Club, may vote on matters involving The Children's Trust, an independent special district that has funded projects at the Richmond-Perrine Optimist Club. The Ethics Commission stated that commissioners are prohibited from voting on matters if they have one of the enumerated relationships with the person or entity seeking action or if the matter will uniquely affect them. In the instant case, the commissioner does not have one of the enumerated relationships with The Children's Trust and he is not uniquely affected by decisions impacting The Children's Trust.

08-25: The Commission on Ethics opined that the county's Community Action Agency is permitted to solicit voluntary contributions from its employees and board members on behalf of the state and national organization, as the work of the state and national organization supports the agency and the County in conducting its official business.