

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST



In Re: Christopher Stearns

C 20-17-04 (A)

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

Complainant José Rosario, Jr. (Rosario) filed this complaint against Christopher J. Stearns, Esq. (Stearns), outside counsel for North Miami Beach and member of the Evaluation Committee (Committee) for RFQ 19-094-DR (Selection of City Attorney). Rosario alleged that Stearns violated Sections 2-11.1(n) and 2-11.1 (x) [Reverse Two- Year Rule] of the County Ethics Code by his participation in the Committee.

Legal sufficiency exists where there is an allegation of a violation of an ordinance within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission, purportedly committed by an individual within the authority of the Ethics Commission and filed with the Ethics Commission within three years of the alleged violation.

Section 2-11.1(n) prohibits a (board member) from participating in any official action affecting a business where he or she has a financial interest. There are no facts indicating that Stearns' participation in the Committee enhanced or benefitted a business in which he has a financial interest. Moreover, regarding the Reverse Two-Year Rule allegation, Rosario's interpretation is simply wrong. Stearns is not a City employee and there are no facts indicating that one of Stearns' previous employers submitted a proposal for the referenced RFQ.

On June 10, 2020, the Ethics Commission found the complaint to be not legally sufficient and dismissed it.

Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C20-17-04 A against Respondent Christopher Stearns is hereby dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session at the virtual meeting held on June 10, 2020.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS &
PUBLIC TRUST

By:



Nelson C. Bellido, Esq.
Chairman

Signed on _____

6/22/2020