

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST



In Re: Sarah Johnston

C 20-17-04 (B)

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

Complainant José Rosario, Jr. (Rosario) filed this complaint against Sarah Johnston (Johnston), former City Attorney of North Miami Beach (NMB), alleging that she violated the Citizen's Bill of Rights (CBR), Truth in Government provision and Section 2-11.1(x) of the County Ethics Code (reverse Two- Year Rule).

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.

At a special commission meeting held on March 5, 2019, to vote on the Resolution approving the selection of the new City Attorney/Professional Services, Rosario addressed the Commission during public comment. Subsequently, the Mayor asked Johnston whether there was any clarification needed regarding Rosario's comments. Johnston replied that all which had been brought up had already been addressed and there was nothing accurate requiring a response.

Since her departure with NMB, Johnston is "of Counsel" to the new NMB City Attorney Firm.

Johnston's response to the Mayor reflects the legal opinion of the City's legal advisor, not a knowing false statement about a public matter or an omission of significant facts, as required under the CBR.

In addition, there are no facts alleged in the complaint indicating that Johnston performed contract-related duties for NMB in connection with a former employer, as required under the Reverse Two-Year Rule.

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

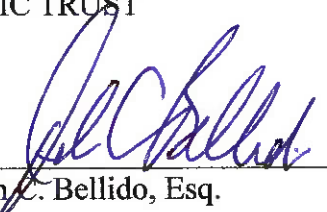
Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C20-17-04 B against Respondent Sarah Johnston 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