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## Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on August 12, 2020

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public held a virtual Commission Meeting on August 12, 2020 by way of the ZOOM platform. The following actions took place:

### **Miami Beach Lobbyist Fined for Non-Compliance**

Lobbyist Juan Carlos Planas received a reduced fine of \$262.50 for his failure to file expenditure and compensation statements as required by the City of Miami Beach Lobbyist Ordinance.

### **Hearing Date in Case Involving State Representative to be Determined at a Later Date**

The hearing date for case **C 18-17-04** involving State Representative Michael Grieco will be discussed at the September Commission Meeting. The feasibility of having the case heard virtually will also be determined.

### **Executive Director's Report**

The Ethics Commission declined to issue a formal opinion regarding prohibitions on public comment by public officials with a voting conflict on the matter relating to the conflict and instead will continue to rely on prior formal and informal opinions on the subject.

The Commission on Ethics Staff Office continues to pack in preparation for its move to a new location by the end of September.

### **No Probable Cause Found in Case Involving the Manager of the City of North Miami**

**C 20-21-06:** The Ethics Commission unanimously found No Probable Cause that North Miami City Manager Arthur Sorey violated the Public Records Section of the Citizen's Bill of Rights.

### **Complaint against North Miami Beach Mayor Dismissed**

**C 20-22-06:** A complaint filed against the Mayor of North Miami Beach, Anthony DeFillipo, alleging that he was in violation of North Miami's Beach Citizen's Bill of Rights was Dismissed for lack of legal sufficiency. .

### **Complaint against Village of El Portal Councilwoman Dismissed**

**C 20-23-06:** A complaint filed against Village of El Portal Councilwoman Vimari Roman, alleging that Councilwoman Roman exploited her official position was Dismissed for lack of legal sufficiency.

### **Complaint against Candidate for County Commissioner Dismissed**

**C 20-24-07:** A complaint filed against Mark Coats, candidate for County Commissioner in District 9, alleging that he was in violation of the Ethics Campaign Practices Ordinance, was dismissed for lack of legal sufficiency.

*The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of training, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.*