



19 West Flagler Street,
Suite 820
Miami, Florida 33130
(305) 579-2594
Hotline: (786) 314-9560
ethics@miamidade.gov

COMMISSIONERS

Nelson C. Bellido Esq.,
CHAIR
Dr. Judith Bernier,
VICE-CHAIR
Judge Lawrence A.
Schwartz
Jan L. Jacobowitz, Esq.
Wifredo "Willie" Gort

Executive Director
Jose J. Arrojo, Esq.

Advocate
Michael P. Murawski, Esq.

General Counsel
Martha D. Perez, Esq.

For Press Inquiries:
Leonardo Mendoza
Public Information Officer
(305) 579-2594
Leonardo.Mendoza@
miamidade.gov

Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on October 14, 2020

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public held a virtual Commission Meeting on October 14, 2020 by way of the ZOOM virtual platform. The following actions took place:

Letter of Instruction Ratified in Case Involving Lobbyist Bernard Zyscovich

C 20-27-07: The Ethics Commission ratified a Letter of Instruction for award winning architect and lobbyist, Bernard Zyscovich. The Commission previously found Probable Cause that Mr. Zyscovich had violated the Lobbying Section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics.

No Probable Cause Found in Case Involving Miami-Dade Commissioner Eileen Higgins

C 20-32-08: The Ethics Commission unanimously found No Probable Cause that Miami-Dade Commissioner Eileen Higgins violated the Exploitation of Official Position ordinance of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance.

Complaint Filed Against Village of Biscayne Park Commissioner Dismissed

C 20-25-07: A complaint filed against Village of Biscayne Park Commissioner MacDonald Kennedy was found to be Not Legally Sufficient and was dismissed. The complaint alleged that Mr. Kennedy violated the County Ethics Code or an ordinance within the jurisdiction of the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust.

Commission on Ethics and Public Trust Fiscal Year Performance Report Presented

Commission on Ethics Executive Director, Jose Arrojo, made a presentation regarding the performance of the COE during the recently concluded 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. Mr. Arrojo highlighted several accomplishments the COE achieved despite the significant and unexpected challenges that the COE staff faced as a result of the pandemic.

Ethical Campaign Practices Hearing Determination Discussed

Commission on Ethics Executive Director, Jose Arrojo, addressed a Complaint filed by Aventura Commissioner Gladys Mezrahi, against Candidate Rachel Saltzman Friedland, where Hearing Examiner Rosa Rodriguez (Circuit Judge Retired) found No Probable Cause that Ms. Saltzman Friedland violated the Mandatory and Voluntary Fair Campaign Practices provisions of Section 2-11.1.1 of the Miami-Dade County Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance.

Letter to Ethics Commission Regarding Miami 21 Task Force Presented

Commission on Ethics Executive Director, Jose Arrojo, read into the record a letter from Attorney David J. Winker, asking the Ethics Commission to reconsider ethics guidance afforded the Miami City Attorney regarding the application of the County Ethics Code to the Miami 21 Task Force.

Discussion Regarding Ethics Opinion Provided to County Commissioner Steve Bovo

INQ 20-89: Commission on Ethics Executive Director, Jose Arrojo, addressed at the Chairman's request, an Ethics Opinion provided to County Commissioner and Mayoral Candidate Steve Bovo regarding the use of the Commissioner's name, title and image in publicly produced and widely distributed materials and messaging encouraging 2020 Census participation.

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.