



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 May 13, 2020

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public held its first virtual Commission Meeting on May 13, 2020 using the ZOOM platform. The following actions took place:

### **Ratification of New Virtual Meeting Procedures**

The first agenda item was the ratification by the Ethics Commission of new procedures allowing for virtual meetings in accords with the Executive Orders No. 20-52 and 20-69, issued by Governor Ron DeSantis on March 9, 2020 and March 20, 2020, respectively. Those Orders allowed local government bodies to hold meetings via videoconference.

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

County revenue shortfalls may impact the remainder of the Ethics Commission's current and upcoming fiscal year budgets and delay the hiring date for a vacant Staff Attorney position.

Ethics Training for persons that lobby Miami-Dade County, Jackson Health Systems and City of Miami Officials as required by the County Ethics Ordinance, is now available on-line.

State and Local Ethics Training for local elected officials as required by State Statute and County Ordinance will be offered virtually using the Zoom platform on May 29, 2020.

### **Public Hearing involving former Miami Beach Commissioner Michael Grieco Postponed**

**C 18-17-04:** The Public Hearing previously scheduled to take place on May 27, 2020 against former Miami Beach Commissioner Michael Grieco was postponed until September 25, 2020 in accordance with an Order from the Florida Supreme Court suspending trials through July 2, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Letters of Instruction Issued to Virginia Gardens Employees and a Councilmember**

**C 20-07-02, C 20-08-02, and C 20-09-02:** The Ethics Commission approved the language of Letters of Instruction issued to Public Works Director Butch Martin, Public Works Employee Robert Martin, and Councilmember Jorge Arce, all of the Village of Virginia Gardens, based upon a stipulated probable cause finding that the three violated Section 2-11.1 (g), of the County Ethics Code relating to Exploitation of Official Position. These cases involved the appropriation by these officials of approximately ten gallons of excess gasoline the Village had purchased for their personal use.

### **No Probable Cause Found in Case Involving Lobbyist Ron Book**

**C 19-39-10:** The Ethics Commission found no Probable Cause that Ron Book violated Section 2-401 of the City of North Miami Code of Ethics related to unregistered lobbying in that City. Mr. Book advised Ethics Commission staff that he had indeed forwarded lobbyist registration to the City Clerk as required. Investigation determined that there may have been disruption in the operation of the City Clerk's office which caused Book's registration papers and payment to be misplaced.

*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.*