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Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on March 10, 2021

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust held a Commission Meeting on March 10, 2021. The following actions took place:

No Probable Cause Found in Case Involving Miami-Dade County Commissioner

C 20-43-11: The Ethics Commission found No Probable Cause in a complaint that Miami-Dade County Commissioner Keon Hardemon violated the Mandatory Fair Campaign Practices ordinance. The complaint, filed by then Commission candidate Gepsie Metellus, alleged that Commissioner Hardemon, who was a candidate for the same Commission seat, used campaign mailers and a television video to promote untrue and malicious statements about Ms. Metellus.

Probable Cause Found in Case Involving Miami-Beach Commissioner

C 21-03-01: City of Miami Beach Commissioner Michael Gongora stipulated to a finding of Probable Cause for violating the Gifts and Disclosure section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. A COE investigation revealed that Commissioner Gongora failed to fully disclose free tickets/entry for his friends to accompany him as guests to the January 15, 2020 New Order concert at the Fillmore Theater in Miami Beach. The complaint was dismissed with the agreement that Commissioner Gongora will accept a Letter of Instruction and amend his disclosure.

Attorney Bruce Jacobs Stipulates to Probable Cause

C 21-02-01: The Ethics Commission voted unanimously to ratify a Letter of Instruction for Attorney Bruce Jacobs who previously stipulated to a finding of Probable Cause for violating the Lobbying section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.

City of Miami Beach Employee Stipulates to Probable Cause

C 21-01-01: The Ethics Commission voted unanimously to ratify a Letter of Instruction for City of Miami Beach employee, Justin Karr, who works as a real estate asset specialist, and previously stipulated to a finding of Probable Cause for violating the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance entitled Prohibition on outside employment.

Ethics Commission Support Florida House Bill 853

The Ethics Commission voted unanimously to authorize, support, and offer the COE's services in support of Florida House Bill 853 that seeks to expand state-mandated ethics training to local officials.

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.