

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

K #: 07-043

Date Opened: March 28, 2007

Date Closed: May 14, 2007

Name of investigator: Breno Penichet

Allegation:

This Investigation is predicated upon information received in the form of a Website Complaint Referral WCR07-51 from the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General, alleging unlawful Sale of park property.

According to complainant Mr. Jesus Camps he believes that waterfront park property was sold to a private developer without public participation. Mr. Camps advised the subject property is located next to the old Mike Gordon's restaurant on NE 79th Street Causeway.

INVESTIGATION:

COE Investigator Penichet contacted Mr. Jesus Camps at the phone number provided (305) 608-1546. Mr. Camps advised that he was a realtor and that he is very involved with his community in the Miami shores area. Mr. Camps further stated that approximately eight to ten years ago he was involved in identifying different parks in his area and he seems to remember a strip of land on the south end of the parking lot, of the Mike Gordon's Sea food Restaurant as one of those Parks. Mr. Camps further stated that he worked closely with the people at MDC Parks Dept. Mr. Camps directed me to Ms. Vivian Donnell Rodriguez Director Dade County Parks Dept. also Ms. Barbara Falsie. According to Mr. Camps they were well aware of this property and they knew him as a conscientious advocate for our park system.

A review of the property records for the area in question shows an address of 1201 NE 79 ST. Folio number 01-3208-011-0010. According to the Miami-Dade Property Appraiser's office the property is owned by River Bait & Tackle LLC. 315 SO Biscayne Blvd. Miami Fla. 33131.

COE Investigator Penichet contacted Ms. Vivian Donnell Rodriguez Director Dade County Parks Dept. Ms. Rodriguez was advised of the nature of the complaint and provided with the specific information on the property. Ms. Rodriguez advised that she was no aware of any park in that area or ever being one there, she consulted with several members of her staff who have been long time employees like herself and they also had the same response. Ms. Rodriguez advised that she was vaguely familiar with Mr. Camps and that she remembers he tried to get a job with the parks department in the past but was not successful. (This fact was revealed to Investigator Penichet by Mr. Camps in previous conversation)

Acting in an undercover capacity Coe Investigators K. Rosario and Penichet along with Mr. Camps went to the area that is now under construction and a sales site for "OASIS 2" on the bay. While there COE Investigator Penichet was able to review the site plan for the project and it appears that the area in question is an easement on the south east side of the property. In the site plan it is part of the common area. From looking at the lot it does not appear that the parcel of land in question was ever a park if at all it may have been an easement but there is no record.

CONCLUSION:

No Violation found, Case Closed.