

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST  
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

K #:10-060 Claudia Cubillos

Date Opened: May 19, 2010

Date Closed: July 7, 2010

Name of investigator: Arthur D. Skinner  
.....

**Allegation:**

The COE received a call suggesting that Claudia Cubillos, a councilwoman in El Portal, may be attempting to exploit her official position to benefit her privately owned business, "Miami Preparatory School". Ms. Cubillos allegedly asked the Village Manager, Jason Walker, to use space in the Village Hall, without charge, for her private summer camp programs this year. She also sought to use the area prior to the summer for graduation practice, again free of charge. The Village rents this space for private gatherings, but charges a rental fee. On occasion, the Village has made the space available for free to nonprofits or to public or community groups, but it is never free to private entities. The caller suggested that there is growing concern among some El Portal council members who believe Ms. Cubillos has been using her office to benefit her school in other ways, the caller gave no additional examples.

**Investigation:**

On May 26, 2010 the El Portal Village Manager Jason Walker was contacted by telephone, and appointment was made to interview him on Tuesday June 1, 2010 in the COE offices.

On May 27, 2010, Village Manager Jason Walker contacted COE Investigator Skinner and gave the following information: Walker said he is very hesitant to meet with COE Investigators to discuss the matter. Walker said that the opinion was at the request of both himself and the commissioner. The hall is for rent for \$43.00 for

residents and \$150 for non residents. If it is a non-profit group they let them have it for free. Any other resident group can rent the hall at a discount (2 hrs for \$15) if they have the event open to the public. The commissioners events are open to the public therefore she gets the discount.

Walker claims at the time that the discussion came up about the rental of the hall he immediately suggested that they call the COE which the commissioner also agreed and said she wanted to be on the line with Staff Attorney Victoria Frigo, but at the time Walker talked with Ms Frigo the commissioner was not in the office. He also indicated that Ms.Frigo was aware that the opinion was in response to both Walker and the Commissioner.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Town Manager Walker came into the COE office on May 28, 2010, and discussed the matter with Executive Director Robert Meyers and Ms. Frigo, it was determined that there was no ethics violation. No Ethics opinion was given on this matter.