



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Investigative Report

Investigator: Breno Penichet

Case No.: K13-013	Case Name: Jorge de Cardenas	Date Open: February 4, 2013	Date Closed: August 22, 2013
Complainant(s): anonymous	Subject(s): Jorge de Cardenas		

Allegation(s):

The Commission on Ethics (COE) received an anonymous letter advising that Jorge de Cardenas (de Cardenas) was being allowed to lobby in the City of Coral Gables without registering. According to the letter, de Cardenas got a “free pass” because he served as the Mayor’s campaign manager and chief strategist.

Relevant Ordinances:

Sec. 2-11.1(s), *Lobbying*, Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest & Code of Ethics Ordinance

Investigation:

Interviews

Jim Cason, Mayor
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
Telephone: (305) 460-5220

On July 16, 2013, Mayor Jim Cason (Cason) was contacted and advised of the nature of the investigation. Cason voluntarily agreed to meet with COE investigators Manuel Diaz and Breno Penichet, and provide information regarding the subject matter of the investigation.

Cason confirmed that de Cardenas has been to the Coral Gables City Hall to visit him. Cason further stated that de Cardenas was his campaign manager and chief strategist during the last election cycle. Cason advised that the visits were strictly to discuss election matters and no lobbying took place. Cason stated that de Cardenas' visits were short and only with him. Cason advised that the complaints mentioned in the letter were brought up during the campaign. Cason stated that he would not permit any type of unethical or improper conduct by any one related to his campaign.

Document/Audio/Video Review:

1. Copy of anonymous letter sent to the J. Centorino, Executive Director COE.
2. Accurint print outs.
3. City records to verify if de Cardenas was registered as a lobbyist.

Conclusion(s):

There is no evidence that de Cardenas engaged in lobbying activity in the City of Coral Gables. Therefore, Advocate Michael Murawski advised that no further action would be taken since there does not appear to be any Ethics related violations. Accordingly, the instant case is closed without further action.



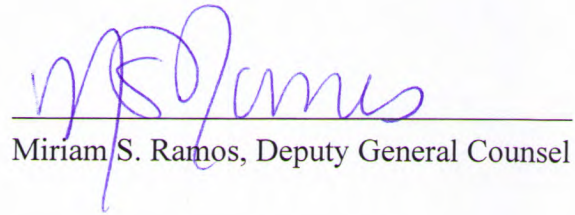
Breno Penichet, COE Investigator

Approved by:

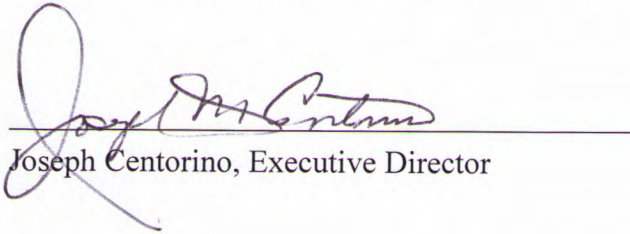


8/28/13

Michael Murawski, Advocate



Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy General Counsel



Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

8/28/13

Date