



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Investigative Report

Investigator: Sylvia Batista

| Case K-13-108 | Case Name: | <u>Date Open:</u> | <u>Date Closed:</u> |
|--|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Complainant(s): Anonymous through counsel Joseph Rosenbaum, Esq. | Subject(s): Mayor Jim Cason City of Coral Gables | 03/22/13 | 10/25/13 |

Allegation(s):

The COE received a letter on 03/22/13 from Attorney Joseph Rosenbaum on behalf of an anonymous client. The letter contains multiple allegations against Coral Gables Mayor Jim Cason (Cason). The allegation investigated herein is that Cason skewed crime statistics of the City of Coral Gables to make it seem like crime has decreased in the City. Source offered no further information on the subject allegation. Multiple attempts to contact source have been unsuccessful.

Relevant Law:

Miami-Dade County Citizens' Bill of Rights, Section (A)2.

Investigation:

Document Review:

A review of E-News, the City's official newsletter, produced information in its 01/02/13 edition about the City's contracting with The Matrix Consulting Group (MCG). Pursuant to E-News, MCG was contracted to do a study to find ways to make the City's police department more efficient and effective. After a year of study, MCG presented a comprehensive report on the efficiency and effectiveness of the City's police department. City crime statistics were not the focus of the report.

Interview(s):

10/23/13 – Patrick G. Salerno, City Manager –

City Manager Patrick Salerno (Salerno) was contacted in connection with the allegation claiming that Cason skewed crime statistics in the City. Asked about the statistics provided to MCG for purposes of its report, Salerno explained that the focus of the MCG report was to find ways for the City to spend money more wisely where police are concerned. The report did not focus on whether crime has increased or decreased during a specific period of time. All information used by MCG in preparation of its report was obtained from the Coral Gables Police Department, and the crime statistics used in the report were provided by the FBI.

Salerno said that he does not recall publishing anything to the public in connection with the City's crime statistics. Salerno advised that during the last election, Cason's opponent talked about crime in the City and claimed that the City was experiencing a crime spree. Salerno said that he does not know what statistics were used to support those claims, as the City has not published crime statistics in some time. Salerno explained that statistics can be used to argue anything depending on the person's perspective.

Salerno said that whatever information used by the City to report on crime statistics would have been provided by the Coral Gables Police Department, and not the Mayor's office.

Salerno subsequently contacted the COE and advised that in December of 2012 Acting Chief of Police Scott Masington reported on City crime statistics before the City Commission.

10/25/13 – Scott Masington, Acting Chief of Police –

Scott Masington (Masington) was contacted regarding a report on crime statistics that he presented to the City Commission during the 12/11/12 meeting.

Masington explained that in the months before the last election, the Chief of Police was deployed by the military and he became Acting Chief of Police. Masington said that has been

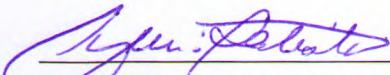
a Major with the City police department for more than eight years. Masington said that the City Commission asked him to present information on crime statistics in the City. Consequently, he gathered statistics indicating the levels of crime in Coral Gables and prepared the presentation. Masington said that he gave the City commission statistics for all crime categories.

Masington said that Mayor Cason did not provide him with any of the crime statistics that he used in his presentation. Masington said that all of the data that he used came from the police department's own computer system, which is the same as what the state has.

Conclusion(s):


There is insufficient evidence to support the allegation that Cason skewed Coral Gables crime statistics in any official sense. This case is closed without further action.

(Signature)

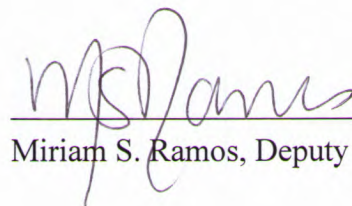


Sylvia Batista, COE Investigator

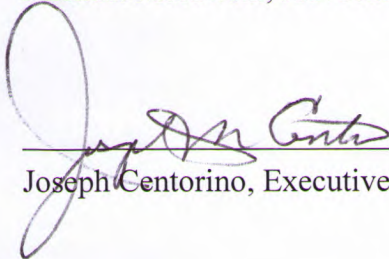
Approved by:



Michael Murawski, Advocate



Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy General Counsel

 10/29/13

Joseph Centorino, Executive Director