



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Investigative Report

Investigator: Breno Penichet

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|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| Case No: K13-037 | Case Name: City of Miami Inspector Manuel Roche | Date Open: | Date Closed: |
| Complainant(s): Anonymous | Subject(s): Manuel Roche | March 13, 2013 | October 16, 2013 |

Allegation(s):

An allegation was received that City of Miami Inspector Manuel Roche (Roche) may have exploited his official position when he allegedly offered to help the condominium association of the building where he owns a unit, located at 3640 NW 9 Street, Miami, Florida to obtain electrical permits.

Relevant Ordinances:

Exploitation of official position, Sec. 2-11.1(g), Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, "No person included in the terms defined in Subsection (b)(1) through (6) and (b)(13) shall use or attempt to use his or her official positive to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or herself or others..."

Investigation:

Interviews

Angel Rivas
City of Miami
Building Department
(305) 416-1107

On March 12, 2013, COE investigators interviewed Angel Rivas (Rivas), Quality Control Manager for the City of Miami Building Department, and asked him about the information received by the COE concerning Roche. Rivas advised that he had received similar information and also a DVD, from an anonymous source, of an alleged condominium board meeting in which Roche was discussing permits and how to obtain them. Rivas advised that he was also under the impression that Roche may be recommending the services of a “local contractor,” but has no specific information or proof. Rivas also stated this information was turned over to Miami Police Department’s Internal Affairs Section. Rivas advised that he would provide copies of the permit history for the address in question, 3640 NW 9th Street, Miami, Florida. Rivas further stated he would forward any other information received by his department pertinent to this investigation.

Sgt. George Law
Miami Police Department
Internal Affairs Section
(305) 835-2000

On September 19th 2013, COE investigators interviewed Sgt. George Law (Law) concerning the above matter. Law advised that his unit was not actively investigating any allegations at this time against Roche. Law advised that a preliminary investigation revealed that most of the allegations stem from petty in-fighting and personality clashes on the condo board. Law advised that no administrative problems were noted. Law advised that he was aware that an investigation was being conducted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) on criminal allegations but it is unknown at this time what they are. He said that if any action is taken by the State that could include any part of this investigation, he would notify the COE.

Document/Audio/Video Review:

On April 17 and 18, 2013, reviewed a homemade DVD of a meeting where Roche (as identified by Rivas) is heard and seen talking in unknown location. In the DVD, Roche talks about obtaining permits for electrical work, but it is very hard to hear, also he talks about the “Grandfather Clause” (this is a known practice where obsolete or out-of-code work can be allowed to be brought up to code and to remain). On the DVD there is no referral of work to any contractor, or offer by Roche to perform the inspections.

On May 23, 2013, property records were checked at miamidade.gov to identify the owner of the property where the condominium is located. The records check showed that Roche does not appear as a property owner at 3640 NW 9 Street, Miami, Florida. The only property listed in Roche's name is located at 3101 SW 19th Terrace, Miami, Florida.

Also on May 23, a search of corporate records did not reveal any corporations registered to either address under the name of "Manuel Roche."

On September 27, 2013, COE Investigator reviewed the permit history for 3640 NW 9th Street, Miami, Florida from the year 2011 to 2013 and found that Roche did not perform any inspections on the site.

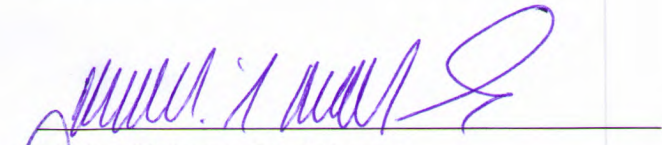
Conclusion(s):

Based on the available information, there is no evidence to suggest that Roche conducted any inspections or owns any property at 3640 NW 9th Street, Miami, Florida. To the contrary, after reviewing the permit history and checking the databases, this investigator could not find any connection. Unless new information is developed or someone with more facts comes forward, this case is closed without further action.

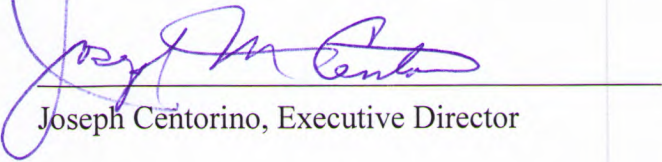


Breno Penichet, COE Investigator

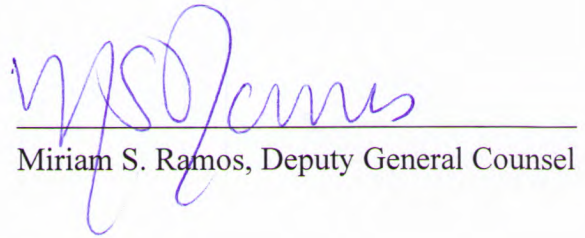
Approved by:



Michael Murawski, Advocate



Joseph Centorino, Executive Director



Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy General Counsel

10/16/13
Date