



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Preliminary Inquiry Report

Investigator: Breno Penichet

Case No.: PI 13-036	Case Name: City of North Miami Griffin Center	Date Open:	Date Closed:
Complainant(s): Ellen Abramson	Subject(s): The Haitian Elderly Center	November 8, 2013	November 14, 2013

Allegation(s):

Received information via e-mail that the City of North Miami (NM), through its City Council was planning to turn over the Griffin Center (city property) to a private company, in order to provide services to elder citizens. The e-mail further stated that the City would pay all the expenses and the item was placed on the consent agenda which meant it was not advertised to the public.

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 Subsections (b)(1) through (6) and (b)(13) shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or herself or others...”

Investigation:

Interviews

Documents obtained from NM revealed the agreement was only for the use of the Griffin Elderly Center (Center) by the NM Elderly Center (non-profit) to provide services to the elderly community of NM. A contract was executed by NM with Haitian Elderly Center, Inc. a Florida non-profit corporation d/b/a North Miami Elderly Center.

In the agreement, NM grants the non-profit a rent free license, for the use of the center. In return, the non-profit agrees to maintain the facility, have use of it Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and NM has the right to inspect as required.

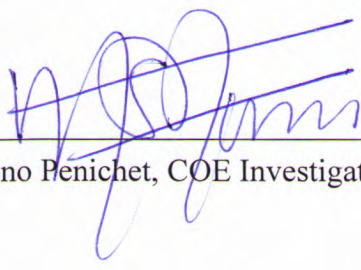
The non-profit also has to have insurance and operate the facility on its own expense.

Document/Audio/Video Review:

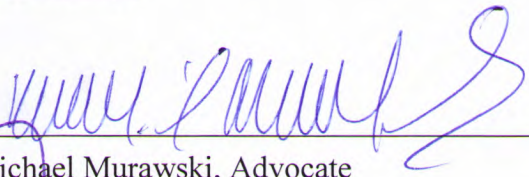
1. Copy of License agreement between NM and the non-profit.
2. Copy of the resolution from the City Council approving the execution of the agreement.
3. Florida Division of Corporations printout for:
Haitian Elderly Center, Inc. / Sant Gran Moaun Ayisyen-An, a Florida non-profit corporation.
4. Florida Division of Corporations printout for:
Fictitious Name d/b/a North Miami Elderly Center.
5. Copy of e-mail from Abramson advising of the Council action.

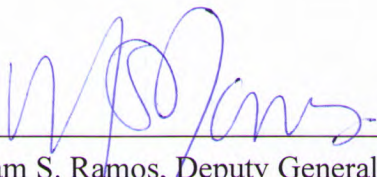
Conclusion(s):

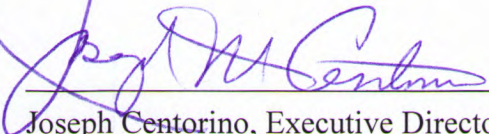
Advocate Michael Murawski advised that no further action would be taken since there does not appear to be any Ethics related violations. Accordingly, it is recommended that the above case be closed.


Breno Penichet, COE Investigator

Approved by:


Michael Murawski, Advocate


Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy General Counsel


Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

11/20/13
Date