



**Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust**

**Investigative Report**

**Investigators:** Manuel W. Diaz

<b>Case No.:</b> K14-059	Case Name: Rojas Doral Outside Employment	<u>Date Open:</u>	<b>CASE CLOSED</b>  Date: <u>9/26/14</u>
	<b>Subject(s):</b> Edward Rojas, Doral City Manager	July 9, 2014	

**Allegation(s):**

The COE received information that Edward Rojas (Rojas), Doral City Manager and former Doral Building Official (together with his wife, Ingrid Balza) who is also employed by the City of Doral Planning and Zoning Dept., have a joint business called CME Construction Management Enterprises, Inc., (CME) formed 9/17/08, and located at 7405 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Ct., Hialeah, Florida.

Rojas was previously the Building Official for the Town of Surfside (Surfside) and before that worked in the Doral Building Department.

An investigation was initiated to determine if Rojas' ownership of CME created a conflict of interest with his employment at Doral or Surfside.

Rojas, when appointed as City Manager, fired both the Doral Police Chief Richard Blom (Blom) and Assistant City Manager Ronda Vangates (Vangates). It was also alleged that he fired Blom and Vangates after receiving pressure from one or more elected official(s).

An investigation was initiated to determine if Rojas was pressured by any elected official to terminate either employment.



Building Department. According to Blom, Rojas asked him if he was interested in the new position. Blom responded that he would think about it. After a couple of days, Blom returned to Rojas and advised him that he was interested in the position. In response, Rojas advised that he was too late, and that he had offered the position to another individual.

Blom has no knowledge of any public official putting pressure on Rojas to terminate him.

Blom believes that Rojas was never serious about offering him the new position. He noted that the City has never created the new position.

Blom provided the two letters sent to Rojas. One concerning the achievements of the Department during his tenure and second concerning his resignation. (Copies in file)

**Ronda Vangates** (Vangates), Former Doral Assistant City Manager

Vangates was contacted. She advised that shortly after Rojas was appointed they met. Rojas told her that she could remain in her position with the City for a couple of months. Two days later Rojas contacted her and raised concerns about a conflict in their management styles. She resigned from her employment.

Vangates suspects that Rojas' decision to end her employment may have been influenced by a third party. She does not know who.

**Documents Reviewed:** (in file)

Copies of the following were provided by Rojas and by the Doral City Clerk for Rojas

Outside Employment Statement	dated 6/24/14	for tax year 2014
Outside Employment Statement	dated 6/18/13	for tax year 2013
Outside Employment Statement	dated 5/24/12	for tax year 2011
Outside Employment Statement	dated 6/2/11	for tax year -no year listed-

A copy of the following were provided by the City of Doral HUR department for Rojas  
Outside Employment Request Form & Affidavit dated 11/16/09 and approved on 2/3/10

Copies of the following were provided by the Town of Surfside

Outside Employment Statement	dated 12/19/12	year not specified
Request for Outside Employment	dated 12/19/12	year not specified

Letters to Rojas from Blom

Doral City Code of Ordinances

**The Miami-Dade Property Appraiser (copies in file)**

Property information for 7405 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Court, Hialeah, Florida indicates that the property is owned by Amita Rojas.

Property information for 10260 NW 46<sup>th</sup> Street, Doral, Florida indicates that the property is owned by Overseas Holdings Resources, Inc.

**Florida Department of State: Division of Corporation**

CME, Construction Management Enterprises, Inc.

Principal Address

10260 NW 46<sup>th</sup> Street

Registered Agent Name and Address

Ingrid Balza

10260 NW 46<sup>th</sup> Street

Officer/Directors

Pres. Ingrid Balza

VP Edward Rojas

7405 W 14<sup>th</sup> Ct

Hialeah, Florida 33014

**Miami-Dade County Clerk of the Courts**

Marriage License Bureau

Marriage: Edward Rojas and Ingrid Balza/Franco, January 29, 2011

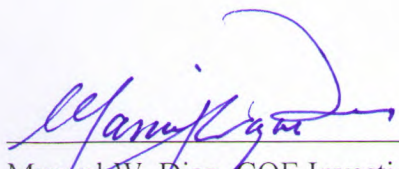
Family/Probate Court

Divorce: Edward Rojas and Aimee Rojas, 2006

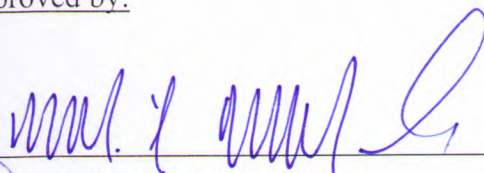


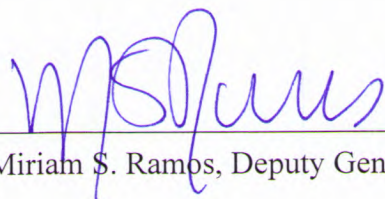
**Conclusions:**

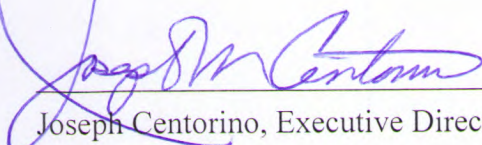
The investigation did not yield any evidence that Rojas exploited his official position in connection with the Blom and Vangates' employment relationship ending with Doral. Further, it did not yield any evidence that Rojas is engaged in conflicting employment. The investigation confirmed that Rojas has requested permission and filed outside employment statements, yearly, as required by the Code. Therefore, the instant case is closed without further action.

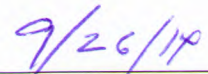
  
Manuel W. Diaz, COE Investigator

Approved by:

  
Michael Murawski, Advocate

  
Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy General Counsel

  
Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

  
Date