

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

K #:10-051 Consumer Services

Date Opened: April 29, 2010

Date Closed: June 18, 2010

Name of investigator: Arthur D. Skinner
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Allegation:

This matter was predicated upon the receipt of information that an unidentified county employee of the Consumer Services Department had exploited his/her official position

Investigation:

On May 5, 2010, Investigators Art skinner and Breno Penichet interviewed Austin Cohen the CEO of Red Limo Inc. (305) 505 6700. Cohen gave the following information:

Cohen stated that he was issued a ticket by the Miami Dade consumer Services Department in January 2010 for not having a disclaimer on ad that he had placed in the January 2007 issue of Ocean Magazine. He said that he was one of two limousine services that had advertised in the December issue of Ocean Drive.

On June 15, 2010, Investigator Art Skinner interviewed Miami Dade Consumer Services Passenger Transportation Regulatory Division Director Joe Mora (305) 375-7277. Mora was advised of the purpose of the interview and gave the following information:

On January 18, 2007 a violation notice was issued to Red Limo Inc. for advertising without displaying a valid current for hire license. The citation was subsequently voided on February 6, 2007, because the Ocean Drive Media Group stated that the failure to print the "for hire license number" was an oversight on their

part. A letter of apology was sent to Austin Cohen by Ocean Drive Media Group on January 26, 2007.

CONCLUSION:

This matter is closed there does not appear to be any violation of Section 2-11.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, the County's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.