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Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

Memo

To: File

From: Karl Ross, ethics investigator

Date: Aug. 31, 2012

Re: K12-115 Marigol Bravo

Close-out: Following an interview with the subject, it was decided that no formal ethics charges should be brought against Ms. Bravo – given that she did not create the email in question relating to the Aug. 14, 2012, Miami-Dade County mayoral election. Ms. Bravo maintained that she received it from an unknown source and merely forwarded it to several coworkers and others. She said she was unfamiliar with the ethics code and related memos as they relate to political campaigns. She was given a copy of the most recent memo prepared by COE Executive Director Joseph Centorino advising that county computers could not be used for political purposes. She agreed to familiarize herself with the memo and to provide copies to her supervisors and co-workers in the Water and Sewer Department.

An attempt was made to trace the email to its original sender; however, the chief security officer of the county's Information Technology Department advised that the email was created on an external email service and was untraceable, absent a subpoena to the host email service provider. It was noted further that any such email would likely be protected under the First Amendment as an exercise of the right to free speech by the sender as it relates to political campaigns. Accordingly, it was decided this matter should be closed without further investigation.