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## Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

# Memo

**To:** Michael Murawski, Advocate  
**From:** Christina Seymour, Auditor  
**Date:** October 29, 2012  
**Re:** K12-119 / Luigi Boria 2012 Mayoral Campaign in City of Doral

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### **BACKGROUND**

On August 14, 2012, the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics received an email from the Assistant City Clerk of Doral, Ms. Connie Diaz, which alleged Councilman Boria misused his non-profit foundation, the Luigi Boria Foundation, to make illegal campaign gifts to voters by giving away back packs. The email was dated August 7, 2012 and alleged that this action, purportedly committed by Boria in furtherance of his 2012 mayoral campaign for the City of Doral, was a violation of elections laws, specifically, the restriction of political campaign intervention by Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations.

### **FIINDINGS**

On Wednesday, August 22, 2012, the COE Auditor had a phone conversation with Councilman Boria to discuss the allegations stated in the August 7, 2012 email sent to the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics. The following were statements made by Councilman Boria with regards to the email's allegations:

- 1) Councilman Boria stated that he established the "Luigi Boria Foundation" <sup>1</sup> to provide financial assistance to school-aged children for tutors, school supplies, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> The COE Auditor verified that the "Luigi Boria Foundation, Inc." was a Florida nonprofit corporation as of December 6, 2010, per the Florida Department of State Division of Corporations.

- 2) The school book bag give-away was an event that Councilman Boria started last year for the children of the citizens residing in the City of Doral.
- 3) The "Luigi Boria Foundation" paid for the school book bags as part of the work of Boria's private foundation.
- 4) Per Councilman Boria, the school book bags were imprinted with wording: "The Luigi Boria Foundation."

At the request of the COE Auditor, Councilman Luigi Boria provided a copy of the vendor invoice from "Bulls Eye Marketing," which documented that the "Luigi Boria Foundation" was charged \$2,964 for 300 royal blue book bags with a silver imprint. Councilman Boria also provided the cancelled check payment from the "Luigi Boria Foundation" to "Bulls Eye Marketing" in the amount of \$2,964, as payment in full for the book bags. Lastly, a photograph of Councilman Boria holding one of these book bags was provided to the COE Auditor. The photograph clearly showed that the back packs were imprinted with wording: "The Luigi Boria Foundation."

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on inquiry of Councilman Luigi Boria and review of all relevant documentation, the COE Auditor concludes that the allegations made in the email dated August 7, 2012 are unfounded. All supporting records reviewed showed that Councilman Boria did not misuse his private foundation, the Luigi Boria Foundation, in furtherance of his 2012 City of Doral Mayoral election campaign, by paying for school book bags with his 2012 election campaign funds.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the above-cited be closed without further action.