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Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

Memo

To: Mike Murawski, Advocate
From: Karl Ross, ethics investigator
Date: Sept. 24, 2012
Re: K12-131, Wendy Duvall

BACKGROUND: On or about Aug. 20, 2012, an email was sent to COE and state prosecutors alleging that North Bay Village City Commission candidate Wendy Duvall “lied” about her residency on her qualification papers – specifically her Statement of Financial Interests (Form 1). The sender of the email, Richard Chervony, asserted that Ms. Duvall resided somewhere other than her stated home address of 7545 E. Treasure Drive, Unit 4H. He noted that the address on her driver’s license is on Miami Beach (7705 Abbott Avenue, Unit 306). He further accused her of misrepresenting an alleged interest in two properties – the 7545 E. Treasure Drive address and a second property, at 1885 NE 121st Street in North Miami. He noted these are both owned by Blanca Azucena Leyva.

INVESTIGATION: COE contacted the city clerk of North Bay Village and requested Ms. Duvall’s qualification documents, which contained a copy of her driver’s license with the Abbott Avenue address as well as numerous documents showing her current address as 7545 E. Treasure Drive. The latter indicated that she lived in Unit 1B, prior to living in Unit 4H, and included a utility bill with FPL and registration documents for a boat and motor vehicle. A review of information contained in a commercial database showed Ms. Duvall appeared to be the current resident at 7545 E. Treasure Drive, Unit 4H. The database also showed that Ms. Duvall lived at the same residence as Ms. Azucena Leyva on several occasions, including ones in California and Illinois, suggesting that they are related to each other.

On Sept. 24, Ms. Duvall appeared at the offices of COE for an interview, and was asked to respond to the allegations raised by Mr. Chervony. She advised that Ms. Azucena Leyva is her mother, and said that her mother lives at the Abbott Avenue address where she resided at the time her drivers license was issued. She stated she has lived at the Caribbean Towers Condominium (7545 E. Treasure Drive) in North Bay Village, since September 2010. She said she lived with her boyfriend, Mariano Beltrame in Unit 1B until moving to Unit 4H in April 2011. She stated that her boyfriend, while married, was separated from his wife at that time.

Ms. Duvall further advised that her mother purchased this property (4H), as well as the property in North Miami. She said her mother intends to transfer possession of these properties to her and that she listed them on her Form 1, after consulting with the city clerk, in an abundance of caution. Ms. Duvall also showed investigators copies of sworn statements from, among others, the property manager at Caribbean Towers establishing her residency there. Furthermore, she provided a copy of meeting minutes from a July 2011 condominium board meeting identifying Ms. Duvall as a board member of the Caribbean Towers Condominium Association.

CONCLUSION: Given the abundance of evidence showing Ms. Duvall resides at the address provided in her qualifying papers (7545 E. Treasure Drive), it was determined that the investigation should be closed at this time. Ms. Duvall was advised that she should update her Florida driver's license to reflect her current address.

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