



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

K #: 12-132 Jorge P. Gonzalez residency and homestead issue

Date Opened: Sept. 4, 2012

Date Closed: Sept. 7, 2012

Name of investigator: Karl Ross

ALLEGATION: On or about Aug. 20, it had been alleged by a local activist that Mr. Gonzalez had improperly taken a homestead exemption on a property he co-owned at 8635 SW 47th Terrace in Miami. It was further hypothesized and alleged that if, in fact, Mr. Gonzalez lived at the SW 47th Terrace address, then he would be ineligible to run for office in North Bay Village, where he is seeking a city commission seat. The activist contacted law enforcement and requested that the matter be examined.

INVESTIGATION: In the course of its investigation, COE contacted the following agencies and individuals. The notes from these contacts are as follows:

Mark Loizzo, account representative for LexisNexis
Sept. 4, 2012

After reviewing information obtained through Accurint (a commercial database) regarding the property in question at 8635 SW 47th Terrace, Mr. Loizzo was consulted as to who the likely resident was at this address. He concurred that it appeared that Mr. Gonzalez's wife, Maria Alvarez, was the primary resident. He advised that seven sources of information tied her to the address, including multiple credit cards. He similarly advised that Mr. Gonzalez, the subject, appeared to reside at the penthouse apartment in North Bay Village, though he noted that the address on his driver's license corresponded to another address at SW 28th Street.

Tim VanderGiesen, assistant state attorney
Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office
Sept. 4, 2012

Mr. VanderGiesen was consulted as to the status of any investigation into Mr. Gonzalez's residency and homestead exemption, and COE was advised that no investigation was being conducted by SAO at that time. It was agreed that COE would serve as the lead agency and report its findings to SAO regarding the matter. He noted he would advise the complainant that the matter was under review and that he would be advised in due course.

Marcus Saiz, deputy property appraiser
Office of the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser
Sept. 4, 2012

After learning through Elections Supervisor Penny Townsley that the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser's Office was conducting an inquiry into the alleged homestead exemption infraction at 8635 SW 47th Terrace, COE contacted Mr. Saiz, who advised this agency that his office hoped to conclude the matter swiftly and reported back to COE.

Jorge Gonzalez, candidate for city commission
City of North Bay Village, FL
Sept. 5, 2012

Mr. Gonzalez stated he was aware of the allegations being made against him, and said he hoped to clarify the matter. He stated he and his wife had been going through a protracted divorce and that a final judgment was expected in the next month or two. He said that since the time of their separation in 2008, he and his wife have maintained separate residences, and that he presently resides in North Bay Village. He further advised that he had recently changed the address on his driver's license to reflect this. He agreed to be interviewed Friday at COE's office.

Correspondence from Property Appraiser's Office
Sept. 6, 2012

COE was notified by email on Sept. 6 that the Property Appraiser's Office had concluded its investigation into the property at 8635 SW 47th Terrace and determined there was no homestead law violation and that it considered the matter closed. The email further advised that the property continued to remain the primary residence of Mr. Gonzalez's wife and children, and that Mr. Gonzalez, it had been confirmed, resided at the property at 7900 Bay Harbor Island Dr. In a follow up message from Mr. Saiz, Mr. Saiz advised that Mr. Gonzalez might, in fact, be entitled to apply for a homestead exemption at his residence in North Bay Village.

CONCLUSION: COE met with Mr. Gonzalez on Sept. 7, and advised him that the matter concerning his residency and homestead and been vetted by the Property Appraiser's Office and

that said office had determined no violation of law. He was further advised that the results of the inquiry conducted by this agency were consistent with those of the Property Appraiser's Office and that, as a result, the COE investigation would be closed and that the allegations against him were found to be without merit.

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