

# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST



## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

#K12-152

Date Opened: 10/11/12

Date Closed: 02/04/13

Investigator: Sylvia Batista

---

On October 11, 2012, the COE received an e-mail from Michael Pizzi (Pizzi), Mayor of the Town of Miami Lakes, regarding an alleged violation of Florida election law committed by Wayne Slaton (Slaton), a candidate for Mayor of the Town. According to the e-mail, Slaton's campaign hired Dave Graveline (Graveline), who operates a local media studio in Miami Lakes, to produce a series of campaign advertisements which have played on You-tube for over a one-month period. Pizzi alleged that the cost of contracting for Graveline's services could be valued in the thousands of dollars and must be reported as an expenditure. However, as of Slaton's latest campaign treasurer's report summary, filed on 11/02/12, there were no campaign expenditures attributed to Graveline or his company, Graveline Electronics, Inc.

The COE's issue relates to a possible violation of Florida Statutes, Section 106.07.

**Investigation:**

A review of the campaign treasurer's report summaries filed by Slaton reflect that Slaton's campaign manager, Marin and Sons, received a total of \$19,180 in campaign funds of which \$12,975 is reported as payment for "multimedia campaign." There were no expenditures attributed to Graveline or Graveline Electronics, Inc. in the 11/02/12 campaign treasurer report.

**11/30/12 – Robert Fernandez, Esq., counsel for Marin & Sons -**

Attorney Robert Fernandez (Fernandez) contacted the COE in response to a letter delivered to his client, Marin and Sons. Fernandez was asked about his client's role in Slaton's campaign. Fernandez explained that Marin and Sons is a one-stop shop for campaigns. Marin and Sons orders and pays for all campaign literature and any other form of communication utilized in the campaign. Fernandez said he would inquire as to whether Marin and Sons paid for the video produced by Graveline for Slaton in the Miami Lakes race for Mayor.

**12/03/12 – Robert Fernandez, Esq.**

Fernandez e-mailed the COE and informed that Marin and Sons did not pay Graveline for the cost of producing the You-tube video. He said that he would provide a letter to the COE stating that Marin and Sons did not order or pay for the subject video.

**12/03/12 – Wayne Slaton –**

Slaton was contacted by the COE and asked to provide a copy of the invoice for Graveline's multimedia services and paid check from his campaign account. Slaton provided the COE with a copy of a paid check made payable to Graveline Electronics, Inc. in the sum of \$894.00 charged for the You-tube video.

Slaton filed his final Campaign Treasurer's Report Summary on 02/04/13 which included the Graveline Electronics, Inc. expenditure for "web videos" produced for the sum of \$894.00.

**Conclusion:**

In view of the fact that Slaton complied with Florida Campaign Financing laws by reporting the subject expenditure for the videos produced by Graveline, this matter is closed and no further action will be taken.