

# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST



## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

#K12-169

Date Opened: 11/07/12

Date Closed: 11/08/12

Investigator: Sylvia Batista

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This matter was referred to the COE by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The matter relates to the alleged use of County e-mail by Junita Roundtree (Roundtree), Community Liaison for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Audrey Edmonson, to express her political views on President Obama. The OIG report advises that Enrique Artalejo (Artalejo), who was the recipient of Roundtree's e-mail, questions the legality of using the County e-mail system for political purposes.

### **Investigation:**

A review of the subject e-mail, provided by the OIG, reflects that Roundtree forwarded an e-mail to Artalejo that she had received the day before from Darchel Jones (Jones), who is a Court Records Specialist II with the Clerk of the Court. In his e-mail, Jones lists the President's accomplishments during his first four years in office. When forwarding Jones' e-mail to Artalejo, Roundtree added a comment implying that she was responding to previously received political e-mails from Artalejo.

Artalejo immediately forwarded Roundtree's e-mail to the Mayor's office and several Spanish television stations. The subject line of Artalejo's e-mail questions the legality of Roundtree using her County e-mail "for political ads."

**11/07/12 – Marie Russell, Office Manager, Commissioner Audrey Edmonson –**

This investigator called the office of Commissioner Audrey Edmonson and left a message with the office manager, Marie Russell (Russell).

**11/08/12** - Russell returned the call on behalf of the Commissioner. Russell informed that the Commissioner was told of the incident and had counseled Roundtree about the restriction on using County e-mail for personal communications. Russell advised that Commissioner Edmonson also spoke to her staff and informed them of the prohibition on the use of County e-mail for anything other than County business. Russell advised that Roundtree fully understood.

Russell explained that the recipient of Roundtree's e-mail is not a County employee and frequently sends political e-mails to their office and others within the County. Russell forwarded a recently received e-mail from Artalejo to this investigator in which he attaches a video attacking President Obama's record. Not surprisingly, Artalejo and Roundtree have opposing political views.

**Conclusion:**

In view of the fact that Roundtree has been counseled by Commissioner Edmonson on the legal use of the County e-mail system, this matter can be closed.