

# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST



## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

K #: 12-065

Date Opened: April 12, 2012

Date Closed: May 7, 2012

Name of Investigator: Manuel W. Diaz

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### **Allegation:**

David Friedeberg (Friedeberg) alleged that Town of Bay Harbour Islands (BHI) Councilperson Solange Rousselot (Rousselot) attempted to deceive the BHI electorate when qualifying for office for the April 3, 2012 BHI election by using a different last name.

### **Applicable Legislation:**

Voluntary Statement of Fair and Campaign Practices, Section 11:

“I will not use or permit the use of campaign material that falsifies, distorts or misrepresents facts. “

### **Investigation:**

In an email to the Miami-Dade Supervisor of Election, Friedeberg alleged that Rousselot used her maiden name to avoid disclosure concerning her lack of business experience, prevent disclosure of an existing warrant, and to disassociate herself from her father's negative history in Argentina.

Freideberg submitted the following to support his complaint.

- a. A search with Florida Department of State Corporate records under the name Solange Rousselot.
- b. Miami-Dade Public County Public Records case# 2011 R658776.
- c. Miami-Dade County Public Records, Family and Criminal records for Solange Rousselot's husband, Carlos Castiglia.

**David Freideberg – Former Candidate for Councilperson BHI**

Freideberg was contacted via email and asked call the COE. He responded to the email. The interview was conducted via telephone. Freideberg advised that he personally conducted the research using the Web. He conceded that he knew that the warrant that he identified about was a notice of monies due to the state and not an arrest warrant issued as a result of a criminal action.

When asked concerning his allegation concerning Rousselot's fathers negative history in Argentina, Freideberg advised that he researched on-line and discovered the name Juan Carlos Rousselot. (Wikipedia). He heard from friends and eventually discovered in a web search that Rousselot was related to Juan Carlos Rousselot.

(Copy in file)

Freideberg noted that he had conducted research concerning the organization: S.U.I.T.R.A. He acknowledged that he did not know the purpose of the organization. His research produced a photograph of Solange Rousselot. The caption under the photograph indicated that she was a member of the organization. The caption identified her as Solange Castiglia. (Copy in file)

Freideberg advised that he had researched the use of a maiden vs. the use of a married name in past Florida elections, and in his opinion Rousselot was in error in using her maiden name.

**Solange Rousselot – Councilperson BHI**

Rousselot was sent a COE contact letter.

**Research:** (Copy in file)

**State of Florida Division of Corporations:**

1. Solange Rousselot is not listed.
2. Carlos R. Castiglia is listed - Estillo Campo Restaurante, Inc, ITAR Corporation, Cargo Enterprises US, Inc.

**Miami-Dade County Clerk of the Courts**

1. Solange Rousselot – no record
2. Carlos R. Castiglia & Solange – Clerks File Number # 2011 R 658776 - State of Florida, Florida Department of Revenue Warrant -#1000000235351 for \$ 300.74 (includes tax and interest)
3. Criminal Justice and Civil Infraction Cases-Case Search, Solange Castiglia - no record found.
4. Criminal Justice and Civil Infraction Cases- Case Search, Solange Rousselot - no record found.
5. Miami-Dade Property Appraiser – Property Search (owner) – Carlos R. Castiglia & W Solange at 1165 98 Street # 301 Bay Harbour Islands, FL 33154-1772. Folio # 13-2227- 029-0040.
6. Florida Driver and Vehicle Express Record Search  
Florida Drivers License # R243-793-80-592-0 - issued to Solange Marie Rousselot on 10-02-07.
7. Circuit Court of the 11 Judicial Circuit Case 9-23767-CA-01 – American Home Mort. vs. Carlos Castiglia and Solange Castiglia – Filed Oct. 23, 2009.
8. Miami-Dade County Marriage License Bureau – License Information – Castiglia/Rousselot – Date of Marriage-November 3, 2004.

### Web Research (Copy in file)

1. Infobae.com – April 18, 2010, article indicates that Rousselot's daughter, Solange, spoke at his memorial service.
2. Wikipedia – article describes Rousselot as a public figure and provides historical background.
3. FindLaw-For Legal Professionals – Levy vs. Dijols
4. District Court of Appeal Of the State of Florida – Fourth District- January Term- Jordan v. Robinson

### Bay Harbour Islands – Election Qualifying Document – Rousselot (Copy in File)

1. Florida Department of State – Division of Elections – Campaign Treasurer's Report Summary – Filed under the name Solange Rousselot
2. Statement of Financial Interest – Form 1 (2011) – Filed under the name Solange Rousselot.
3. Bay Harbour Islands – Oath of Office – Filed under the name Solange Rousselot.
4. Appointment of Campaign Treasurer – Filed under the name Solange Rousselot.
5. Statement of Candidate – Filed under the name Solange Rousselot.
6. Town of Bay Harbour Village Candidate Profile – Filed under the name Solange Rousselot.
7. Declaration and First Amendment Waiver – For Candidates Who Agree to Comply With The Voluntary Statement Of Fair Campaign Practices. – Filed under the name Solange Rousselot.
8. Bank of America – BHI qualifying fee. Account under the name Solange M. Rousselot Campaign.
9. Statement of Financial Interest – Form 1 (2010) – Filed under the name Solange Rousselot

**Summary of Facts:**

1. Freideberg, an unsuccessful candidate in the April 3, 2012 BHI election, alleged that Rousselot, his opponent, improperly used her maiden name when qualifying to run for office to deceive the BHI voting constituents.
2. Freideberg based his allegation on his interpretation of State of Florida court decisions and cited them in his complaint.
3. Research indicates that Rousselot utilized her maiden name when obtaining a Florida Drivers license in 2007.

**Conclusion:**

After review of facts and relevant case law by the Advocate, this matter is closed with no further action.