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## Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

# Memo

**To:** Michael Murawski, Advocate  
**From:** Manuel W. Diaz, Investigator  
**Date:** May 7, 2012  
**Re:** K12-073

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This investigation was initiated after David Walters (Walters) wrote an article that identified possible exploitation wherein City of Miami Beach employees who had their automobiles towed, were not being required to pay the fee to retrieve their cars but instead were being shown “professional courtesy” and were having their cars returned to them free of charge.

On May 5, 2012, I reviewed the City of Miami Beach audit file which is the subject of Walter’s allegations. The audit identifies three City employees who released towed vehicle for other employees as a “professional courtesy”. The City’s Internal Auditor, Jim Sutter, advised that two of the individuals named are current City employees and one was recently terminated.

The dates considered in the Audit were October 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009. The Audit was published on February 8, 2010.

The release of the three vehicles by City employees occurred in April 2009, beyond the statute of limitations jurisdiction of the COE.

**Conclusion:**

After discussion and review with the Advocate, it was determined that all the alleged instances occurred outside of the 3-year statute of limitations, wherefore, the investigation was terminated.