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Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

Memo

To: Mike Murawski, independent ethics advocate
From: Karl Ross, ethics investigator
Date: April 4, 2013
Re: K12-086 Andre Pierre Campaign

Proposed close-out

On or about June 6, 2012, COE opened an inquiry into alleged illegal contributions to North Miami Mayor Andre Pierre's 2011 re-election campaign in the form of unreported or under reported bus bench advertisements. His political challenger had contended that Mayor Pierre failed to pay fair-market-value for campaign advertisements, thereby receiving an improper subsidy.

The initial investigation did not find any violations of the Miami-Dade County ethics code, but did suggest possible violations of state elections law. The findings were forwarded to the Florida Elections Commission (FEC) and the Miami-Dade County Police Department's Public Corruption Investigations Bureau (PCIB).

COE continued to assist PCIB in its follow-up inquiry into possible criminal violations of campaign finance law. However, on or about March 2013 it was learned that Mayor Pierre settled the FEC complaint, which found that he falsified Campaign Treasurer's Reports in order to conceal the illegal advertising. Pierre was required to pay \$8,000 in civil penalties as part of the settlement.

After consulting the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office, PCIB decided to suspend the criminal portion of the investigation and notified COE. Accordingly, no further investigation is required at this time and the case should be closed.