

# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST



## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

K 13-014

Date Opened: February 6, 2013

Date Closed: March 6, 2013

Investigator: Breno Penichet

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### **Allegation:**

The Commission on Ethics (COE) received an anonymous complaint advising that an El Portal police officer may be taking advantage of an elderly woman.

### **Applicable Legislation:**

Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance Sec. 2-11.1(g),  
*Exploitation of official position prohibited.*

### **Investigation:**

COE received an anonymous letter from concerned neighbors advising that Irene Webster (Webster), a 97 year old female, who resides at 360 NE 87<sup>th</sup> Street, El Portal, Florida, has been ill with dementia for the past two (2) years. According to the letter, the writer along with other neighbors is worried because, El Portal Police Sergeant Ronnie Hufnagel (Hufnagel) has been visiting Webster regularly in the mornings and the late afternoons.

According to the letter, they fear Hufnagel may try to take advantage of Webster. The perception seems to stem from the fact that Hufnagel is not giving any information to the neighbors about Webster's condition and he has been checking up on Webster for a long time..

COE Investigator Penichet contacted El Portal Police Chief Eugene Morales (Morales). Chief Morales was made aware of the allegations in the letter and was given a copy of the letter. Chief Morales advised that he was aware that Hufnagel was checking up on Webster and it was his understanding it was on her own time. The information was turned over to Chief Morales to be pursued administratively as he deemed necessary.

**Conclusion:**

Advocate Michael Murawski advised that no further action would be taken in this matter and it is closed as referred to El Portal PD.