

# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST



## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

K 13-022

Date Opened: December 12, 2012

Date Closed: April 22, 2013

Name of Investigator: Breno Penichet

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### **Allegation:**

Town of Medley Building Official may have allowed his brother to work in the Building Department, under his command, in violation of the prohibition against Nepotism.

### **Investigation:**

Information was received that Town of Medley (the Town) Building Official Sal Annese (S. Annese), was supervised his brother, Bill Annese (B. Annese), who is a Building Inspector working in the Town Building Department. It was also alleged that B. Annese hired his brother as a contract inspector.

COE Investigators interviewed Town Attorney Michael Pizzi (Pizzi) in his office. Pizzi advised that he was assigned by the Mayor and Town Council to investigate this matter and report his findings. Pizzi advised the Town does have inspectors that are sub-contractors. HE said that his investigation revealed that the hiring was authorized by the Mayor, with the full knowledge of the Building Official S. Annese.

Pizzi advised that others in the building department were also hired:

1. Richard Annese for Structural reviews
2. Bob Conde for Plumbing review
3. Manny Jurado for Mechanical reviews

Pizzi provided a copy of the memo he submitted to the Mayor and Town Council documenting his investigation regarding this matter along with other allegations.

Vice Mayor Griselia Digiacomo (Digiacomo) was interviewed in her office by COE Investigator Penichet and MDPD Detective Alex Baldor. Digiacomo advised that a private company had taken over the duties of the inspectors, and the building official. Digiacomo advised that both S. Annese and his brother are no longer employed by the Town.

**Conclusion:**

Advocate Michael Murawski advised that no further action would be taken. B. Annese was not an employee of the Town but was hired as an independent contractor. The Ethics Code does not prohibit contracting between the siblings of a Town employee and the Town. Moreover, S. Annese is no longer employed by the Town and his brother is no longer contracting with the Town.