

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

#K13-031

Date Opened: 03/06/13

Date Closed: 03/08/13

Investigator: Sylvia Batista

On or about March 6, 2013, the COE received a telephone call from a person working for a candidate for the City of Coral Gables Commission. The person informed that a competing candidate, Norman Anthony Newell (Newell), may be in violation of Florida elections law for not being a continuous Coral Gables resident for at least one year proceeding the qualifying period. The person said that Newell registered to vote at his Coral Gables address this past January and became a candidate for office in the City shortly after that. Newell was previously registered to vote at his parent's address.

The COE's issue relates to a possible violation of Florida elections laws.

Investigation:

Research revealed that Newell reported in his qualification papers that he resides at 55 Merrick Way, Apt. 524, Coral Gables. Included in Newell's qualification package is his FPL customer account history which reflects that Newell was provided continuous uninterrupted service for a one-year period prior to the qualifying period. Finally, search results reflect that

Newell's most recent address is correct as stated in his qualification papers and that he formerly resided at his parents' home.

03/07/13 – Norman “Tony” Newell, Coral Gables City Commission Candidate –

Newell was contacted in connection with the aforementioned issue. Newell explained that he has lived at 55 Merrick Way for over a year and previously lived at another address in the Gables - 340 Giralda Avenue. Newell said that he was aware of the concern over his residency because he was contacted by P. J. Mitchell who called to ask him about it. Newell explained that he kept his voters registration at his parents' home until recently out of a sense of loyalty because that is where he grew up.

Conclusion:

In view of the fact that Newell has been determined to reside at the address listed on his qualification papers, this matter is closed and no further action will be taken.