



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

K #: 13-070

Date Opened: 05/14/2013

Date Closed: 05/14/2013

Name of Investigator: Larry Lebowitz

Purpose of Inquiry:

To determine if Anna Pierre, candidate for mayor of North Miami, violated the Miami-Dade Voluntary Statement of Fair Campaign Practices when she claimed on campaign fliers that she has been “endorsed by Jesus Christ.”

Applicable law:

Section 2-11.1.1(D)(2) of the code of Miami-Dade County provides that any candidate for office may make a voluntary statement to abide by the Statement of Fair Campaign Practices.

Background:

Candidates who sign the voluntary fair campaign practices statement must abide by a variety of conditions aimed at reducing attacks based on racial, ethnic, religious, sexual or other prejudices. Section 1 of the declaration states: *“I shall not make my race, religion, national origin, gender, physical disability or sexual orientation an issue in my campaign.”*

Ms. Pierre’s campaign posted flyers on Facebook stating that she is “endorsed by Jesus Christ.”

Investigation and Findings:

The initial stories first appeared on The Miami Herald website on Monday, May 13.

Attached is a copy of the updated, final story that appeared in the print and online editions of Tuesday, May 14 because it included a comment from the candidate.

Also attached is a screen-grab of the flyer that appears on Ms. Pierre's Facebook page. This investigator spoke with Thelisca Louis, an employee in the office of North Miami City Clerk Michael Etienne. At his request, Mr. Louis checked the elections files. He said Ms. Pierre did not sign the voluntary fair campaign practices waiver (nor did any other candidate for mayor or the open commission seats in this election cycle).

Conclusion and Recommendations:

While it might be difficult for Ms. Pierre to factually verify the campaign flyer claim, without the voluntary waiver, the COE does not have jurisdiction to pursue this matter further. Therefore, the instant case is closed without further action.

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