



**Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust**

**Report of Investigation**

Investigator: Sylvia Batista

|  |   |                     |  |
|--|---|---------------------|--|
| Case: K14-121                          | Case Name:  | <u>Date Opened:</u> |  |
| Complainant(s):<br>Alice Hidalgo-Gato, | Subject(s):<br>Solicitation of vendors at<br>WASD | 10/10/14            |  |

**Allegation(s):**

On or about 10/10/14 the COE was informed of possible improper solicitation of charitable contributions from vendors by Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department (WASD) employees.

The COE initiated an investigation into the allegation.

**Relevant Law:**

Sec. 2-11.1. Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, Subsection (e) *Gifts* (3) *Prohibitions*.

**Investigation:**

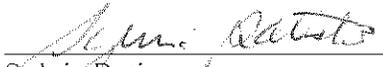
**02/26/15 – Alice Hidalgo-Gato, SBD Section Chief, ISD –**

Alice Hidalgo-Gato (Hidalgo-Gato) explained that one of her employees who did not want to be identified, heard a speech at the Miami-Dade County WASD. As part of the speech the speaker asked those in the audience to make donations to the United Way. Some of those present in the audience were vendors and potential vendors. Hidalgo-Gato said that the employee did not want to be identified or become involved in the issue because she has to work with the people at WASD. She said that this was just a question that she posed to the Advocate, but people do not want to get involved. She just wanted to know what the policy is on solicitation of charitable donations by County employees.

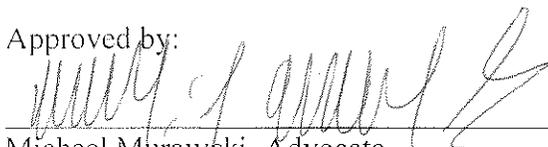
**Conclusion(s):**

This investigation was stymied at the outset by witnesses who did not want to be identified or provide any further information. After discussion with the COE Advocate, it was determined that this matter should be closed with no further action. The United Way is recognized as a partner to the County and solicitation by County employees on behalf of the County for such recognized partners is generally not prohibited. There was no other available testimony to demonstrate that improper solicitation was occurring. Hidalgo-Gato was referred to section 2-11.1 (e) of the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics.

(Signature)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sylvia Batista,  
(Investigator's name), COE Investigator

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Murawski, Advocate

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

3/16/15  
Date Closed