

Biscayne Building
19 W. Flagler St., Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130
Phone (305) 579-2594
Fax (305) 579-0273

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

Memorandum

To: File Date: January 15, 2014
From: Robert Steinback, Investigator
Re: Report of Miami Beach city vehicle in Broward – PI 14-005

This case was initiated by this investigator, who on January 10, 2014, observed a Miami Beach city building department vehicle being driven northbound on U.S. 1/Federal Highway approaching Hallandale Beach Boulevard in Broward County at 4:55 p.m. This raised the question of why a City of Miami Beach Building Department vehicle was being driven outside of Miami-Dade County at what was effectively the end of the work day on a Friday evening. The investigator noted the number of the car, 1640, and its tag, XDI679.

The investigator subsequently contacted Miami Beach City Clerk Rafael Granado. Granado forwarded an internal city document which outlines policy for the use of city-owned vehicles. He also stated that it was his belief that certain Building Department officials were approved for take-home vehicles, which are permitted under city policy for employees who live in Miami-Dade or Broward counties. He noted further that all city vehicles are outfitted with GPS tracking technology, allowing the city to monitor the positions of all of its vehicles at all times.

Granado referred the investigator to Hernan Cardeno, who is in charge of the Miami Beach Code Enforcement Department. Cardeno affirmed what Granado had said about the vehicles. The investigator forwarded the details of the vehicle sighting to Cardeno on Wednesday, January 15, 2014.

Cardeno responded later the same day, providing the GPS tracking report, and noting that the vehicle in question is assigned as a take-home vehicle to the Chief Electrical Inspector for the City of Miami Beach, Candelario Martinez, who does, in fact, live in Broward County. The tracking report pinpoints the vehicle as reported. Cardeno affirmed that the circumstances of the sighting can be justified in accordance with city policy. The investigator's review of the city policy regarding take-home cars finds that Cardeno's assessment is consistent with said policy.

The investigator recommends no further action on this matter.