

Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Investigative Report

Investigators: Manuel W. Diaz

Case PI 14-014	Case Name: WASD Parking Lot	<u>Date Open:</u> 3/13/14	<u>Date Closed:</u>
Complainant(s): Anonymous	Subject(s): Miami Dade Water and Sewer Department		

Allegation(s):

The COE received an anonymous hotline call.

The caller advised that the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department was constructing a parking lot at the Miami-Dade Alexander Orr Water Treatment Plant located off of SW 87th Ave., without the required permits from the Miami-Dade Building Department. The anonymous caller advised that the parking lot was located behind the main building.

The call came from a Miami-Dade employee who requested to remain anonymous because of possible reprisal from his supervisors.

Relevant Ordinances:

N/A

Investigation:

Interviews

Jack Osterholt (Osterholt) Miami-Dade County Deputy Mayor. Osterholt oversees the Miami-Dade Building Department. Osterholt was informed of the anonymous complaint.

Osterholt referred the information to **Alina Hudak** (Hudak), Miami-Dade Deputy Mayor, Interim Director of Miami Dade Public Works. As Interim Director Hudak oversees WASD.

Hudak was contacted. Hudak inquired and received the following information from WASD.

WASD identified an area at the water treatment plant to use as a staging area for heavy equipment that was being relocated from another location. WASD had initiated construction without inquiring if a permit was required.

As a result of the inquiry, WASD met with Zoning, Public Works, Building and Department of Environmental Protection representatives and determined that the construction required a Zoning Improvement Permit. All work was stopped until a permit could be obtained.

Documents reviewed.

E-mails between Osterholt, Hudak and other Miami-Dade staff members. Copies in file

Summary of Facts:

The COE received an anonymous complaint that WASD was in the process of constructing a parking lot at the Alexander Orr Water Treatment Plant without the required Building Department permits.

Hudak inquired from WASD and advised the COE that WASD was not building a parking lot at the plant. The department was preparing the area as a staging area for heavy equipment transferred from another facility.

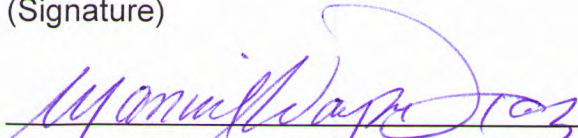
WASD staff inquired and determined that a Zoning Improvement Permit was required. WASD had failed to obtain the permit prior to initiating the construction.

Construction was stopped until the required permit was obtained.

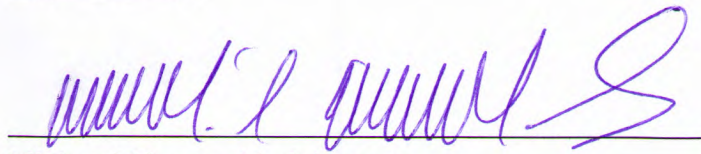
Conclusions:

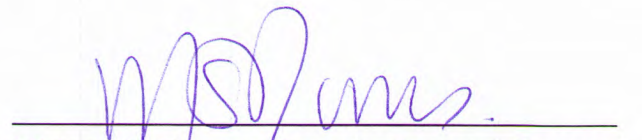
No ethics ordinance violations were implicated pursuant to this inquiry and the matter is closed with no further action.

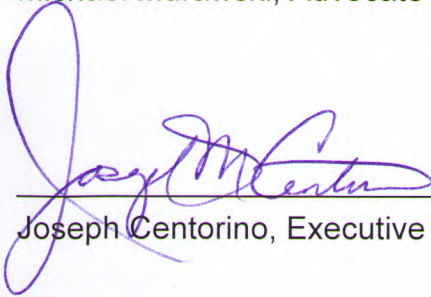
(Signature)


(Investigator's name), COE Investigator

Approved by:


Michael Murawski, Advocate


Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy General Counsel

 3/27/14
Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

**CASE
CLOSED**

Date: 3/27/14