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

# Memorandum

**To:** File: PI14-056 Date: October 30, 2014  
**From:** Robert Steinback  
**Re:** PI14-056 Subject: Caesar Mestre

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Complainant Xiomara Pazos (Pazos) is running for the Miami Lakes Town Council, Seat 6, against incumbent Ceasar Mestre (Mestre).

Pazos contacted COE with a concern about Mestre, and other Miami Lakes Council Members who she believed were harassing and threatening a volunteer who was handing out literature for Pazos and also for candidates in other unrelated campaigns, in Miami Lakes. Pazos did not identify the exact location of the confrontations, but said it was in a public area.

From Pazos' initial correspondence and a subsequent conversation with the investigator on October 30, 2014, the story told by Pazos is that Mestre on at least two successive days approached a 61-year-old Cuban-American female (Pazos' description) volunteer who had offered to hand out campaign literature for Pazos. Pazos said Mestre is a former Hialeah police officer.

Pazos said Mestre and fellow Council Member Frank Mingo ordered the volunteer to stop handing out Pazos' literature. The unnamed volunteer told Mestre to talk to Pazos. Pazos said she asked her own attorney if the volunteer was doing anything wrong. Pazos said her attorney said there was no problem as long as Pazos' name was on flyers separate from the other candidates the volunteer was promoting.

Pazos said that on the second day, Mestre confronted the volunteer by videotaping her actions. According to Pazos, the volunteer said, "Why [are you doing this]?" and Mestre answered, "Because I already told you, you can't do that." Pazos said she told Mestre that her attorney said the volunteer was within her rights. Pazos said Mingo was also on the scene. Pazos said the stress created by Mestre and Mingo appeared to wear on the volunteer, who she described as having high blood pressure.

After consulting COE attorneys, the investigator asked Pazos to recount the series of events, which is provided above. The investigator explained that if Pazos believed Mestre or Mingo

were truly threatening her volunteer, touching her physically, detaining her or impeding her freedom of movement, these would be potential criminal matters that the police should handle and she should report them to the police.

The investigator further explained that videotaping or picture taking on a public street is not illegal.

The investigator stated that if the situation is as described, her volunteer had done nothing wrong and was acting within her legal rights. Pazos seemed satisfied with this response and thanked the investigator for hearing her complaint. Asked if there were any other details she felt were relevant, or if there were any other matter she wished to inquire about, Pazos said no. The investigator invited Pazos to call COE if she has any further concerns.