



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Report of Inquiry

Investigator: Sylvia Batista

Case: P114-060	Case Name:	<u>Date Opened:</u>	
Complainant(s): Coral Gables Mayor Jim Cason,	Subject(s): Former City of Coral Gables Commissioner, Ralph Cabrera.	12/22/14	

Allegation(s):

This preliminary inquiry was based on information received from current Coral Gables Mayor Jim Cason (Cason) regarding his prospective mayoral opponent in the April 2015 City of Coral Gables (the City) mayoral race, Ralph Cabrera (Cabrera). Cabrera served on the City commission for 12 years before resigning to run in the 2013 mayoral election in which he lost to Cason by 71% of the vote.

Cason alleged that he recently received information from a source that while Cabrera was on the City Commission he had misused his official position by suggesting to a member of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce that the Chamber should contract with his (Cabrera's) wife's copier business. Cason advised that the contact between Cabrera and the source were via a number of e-mail communications.

Relevant Law:

The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, Sec. 2-11.1(g) – *Prohibition on exploitation of official position.*

Investigation:

Research; Interview of Source:

Internet searches conducted reflect that one Jody Lynn Cabrera is the likely spouse of Cabrera. Furthermore, additional research on Jody Lynn Cabrera reveals that she is employed as a Sales Account Executive for Canon Business Solutions in the Miami/Fort Lauderdale Area.

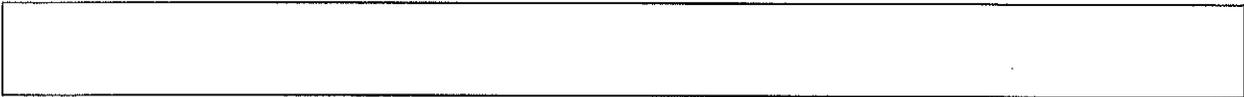
A search of the State of Florida Department of State Division of Corporations did not locate any corporation filed by Jody Lynn Cabrera which would fit the description of being in the photocopier business.

12/18/14 – Source explained that some years ago he had received a few e-mails from then-Commissioner Cabrera that made reference to his wife’s copier business. Source could not recall the name of the copier business, but said that he would search his computer and provide copies of the e-mails to the COE.

01/21/14 – After several attempts at communication, source contacted the COE and advised that he could not locate the e-mails, but had ascertained that this incident took place between late 2009 and early 2010, which is well outside the COE’s Statute of Limitations. Source avoided any further contact with the COE.

01/26/14 – Cason was contacted and advised about source’s inability to locate the subject e-mails. Cason advised that he would try to locate the e-mails through another source. Cason asked that he be contacted by the COE in a few days.

02/02/15 – COE investigator contacted Cason in order to check the status of the e-mails, but has not received additional information in this regard.



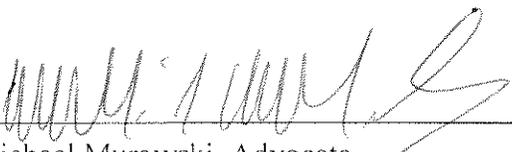
Conclusion(s):

Due to the fact that the subject e-mail communications are no longer accessible to source, or to Mayor Cason, and that had the e-mails been located, they would be outside the Statute of Limitations of the COE, it is determined that this matter is closed with no further action. If Cason provides any further relevant information, the inquiry can be re-opened.

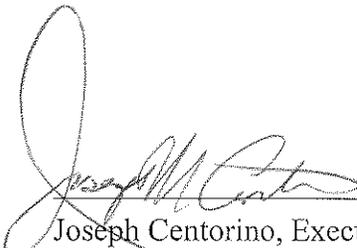


Sylvia Batista, COE Investigator

Approved by:



Michael Murawski, Advocate



Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

Date: 3/16/15