



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Report of Inquiry

Investigator: Sylvia Batista and Breno Penichet

Case: PI15-017	Case Name:	<u>Date Opened:</u>	
Complainant(s): Arnaldo Cabrera,	Subject(s): Towing of vehicle from body shop by M-D Police Officer, Pedro Polo.	06/01/15	6/10/15

Allegation(s):

On May 28, 2015 the COE received information from Arnaldo Cabrera (Cabrera), owner of Cabrera Auto Repair, Inc. located in the City of Miami. Cabrera said that he had a 1957 Chevy in his shop that had been dropped off by its owner for repairs. When Cabrera completed some of the work, he tried calling the owner of the car to collect payment, but was unable to get in touch with him. Cabrera said that when he could not reach the owner, he proceeded to place a lien on the car through Professional Lien and Title Service Corp.

Cabrera explained that a couple of months ago the owner of the car, Eduardo Fuentes Camacho (Camacho), brought the car in for repairs and gave Cabrera a copy of a certificate of sale which was the only documentation he had showing that he had bought the car. The car was purchased in the State of Alabama. Camacho told Cabrera that the car did not have a title. Cabrera agreed to do the repairs for \$1,000.

Cabrera said that on May 28, 2015, a Miami-Dade County police officer from the Hammocks District named Pedro Polo (Detective Polo) came to the shop and towed the car away. Cabrera said he showed the work order to Detective Polo who told him that it did not contain enough specifications as to what work was to be done on the car. Cabrera said he called the owner of the car and luckily was able to reach him. He placed the owner of the car on the phone with

Detective Polo. Again, Detective Polo said that he was taking the car because there wasn't sufficient information on the work order and hung up. Before leaving with the car, Detective Polo told Cabrera that the car would be taken to Excalibur Towing, located on 142 Street SW 142 Avenue. Cabrera said that he had completed part of the work involving the motor. Cabrera said that he checked and found that in 1957 the State of Alabama did not issue automobile titles. Cabrera said that he also checked to see whether the car was reported stolen and it was not. The police officer told him that the owner of the car could pick up the car at Excalibur, but would need to produce a title in order to get it back.

Before leaving, Cabrera said that Polo warned him that he would return to review all of his work orders to see if they were properly filled out and would cite him if they were not. Pedro Polo is with the M-D Police Department, Hammock District, 9105 NW 25th Street #2054, (305) 383-6800.

The COE initiated an inquiry to determine the reason why Polo picked up the car and had it towed to Excalibur.

Relevant Law:

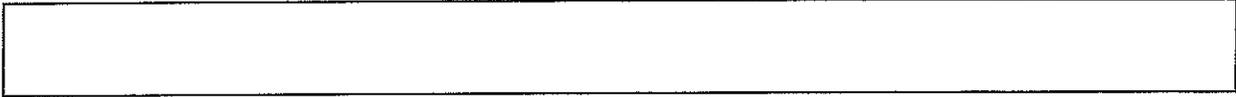
Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance Sec. 2-11.1(g)
Prohibition on exploitation of official position.

Investigation:

06/04/15 – Pedro Polo, Miami-Dade Police Department, Hammock District, Auto Theft Unit –

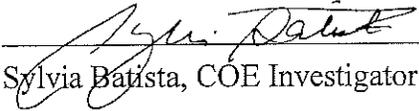
On June 4, 2015 Investigator Penichet spoke to Detective Pedro Polo (Polo), MDPD/ Hammocks District-Auto Theft Unit, regarding the above incident. Polo advised he was alerted to this case because of the lien information and paperwork that appeared to be out of the ordinary. Polo decided to initiate an investigation to determine the validity of the vehicle title and the auto shop invoice. Polo advised the paperwork provided lacked details of the work performed, and there was a question as to whether Cabrera was licensed to work on the engine of the vehicle. Polo advised that he would also be addressing some other issues, but was willing to release the vehicle to its rightful owner if he could produce a title. Polo advised that the vehicle does not appear to be stolen at this time.

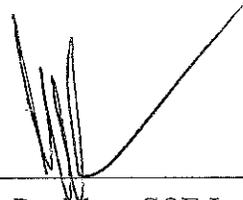
On June 4, 2015 Investigator Penichet received a phone call from Cabrera requesting to know how he could get the vehicle back and why he was not given any type of receipt or case no. Cabrera was referred to Detective Polo.



Conclusion:

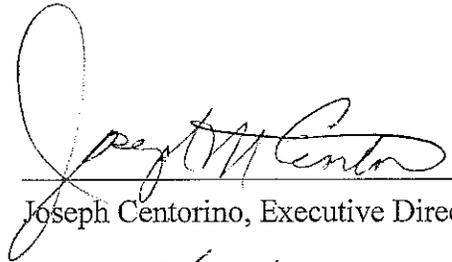
This matter will be referred to Miami-Dade PD Professional Compliance Bureau to review the actions taken by Det. Polo.


Sylvia Batista, COE Investigator


Breno Penichet, COE Investigator

Approved by:


Michael Murawski, Advocate


Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

Date: 6/10/15

Date: 6/10/15