



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

**Preliminary Inquiry Report**

Investigator: Breno Penichet

Case PI 15-036	Case Name: North Bay Village Nepotism	Date Open: September 9, 2015	<b>CASE CLOSED</b>  Date: <i>12/28/2015</i>
Complainant(s): Jose Torres	Subject(s): Village Manager Frank Rollason		

**Allegation(s):**

The COE received a letter alleging the Village Manager for North Bay Village, was conducting Village business with his daughter who is the Deputy Director of Best Buddies International (BBI). According to the letter this activity violates Florida State Law and City policy because Rollason cannot be involved in the hiring of persons the BBI program recommends.

**Relevant Ordinances:**

Exploitation of official position, Sec. 2-11.1(g), Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.  
Actions Prohibited When Financial Interests Involved, Sec. 2-11.1(n)  
Nepotism, Section 112.3135, Florida Statutes

**Investigation:**

The COE received a letter from Mr. Jose Torres (Torres), who claimed to be a resident of North Bay Village (NBV), alleging that Village Manager, Frank Rollason (Rollason), conspired with his daughter, Nikki Rollason-Childree (Rollason-Childree) who is the Deputy Director of Best Buddies International (BBI) in Miami, to engage in unethical misconduct. According to Torres, BBI, through the Rollasons, entered into an agreement for the Village to hire persons that are recommended and part of a program of BBI. Torres further alleges that the funds to be used were never authorized or properly vetted and budgeted by the Village Commission .

COE Investigator Penichet attempted to contact Torres to obtain further information but was unable to do so due to the fact that no one by the name of Torres was living at the address provided.

Documents were obtained from NBV showing that in fact the program was brought to the Village by Vice Mayor Eddie Lim. It should be noted that BBI is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

As a result of the interviews and the records reviewed, it appears Rollason did not attempt to exploit his position; rather, he only followed up on the request made by the Village Commission after they were fully aware of his (Rollason's) relation to the program.

**Interviews:**

Frank Rollason  
Village Manager  
North Bay Village

Rollason voluntarily agreed to be interviewed and provide information concerning the investigation. After being advised of the allegation, Rollason advised that he never approached the Commission with the proposal to hire anyone from BBI. Rollason advised that he was approached by Vice Mayor Eddie Lim who requested to partner with the non- profit organization. Rollason advised that he immediately made Lim and the other members of the Commission aware that his daughter was employed as the Deputy Director of BBI. Rollason further advised he would be happy not to be a part of the process and would not recommend any one person or service to avoid any appearance of impropriety. Rollason advised all the monies allocated for the position to hire the BBI person were approved by the Commission.

Connie L. Kreps  
Mayor,  
North Bay Village

Kreps voluntarily agreed to be interviewed and provide information concerning the investigation. After being advised of the allegation, Kreps advised that Vice- Mayor Lim was the person that brought the idea for the NBV Commission to help the members of BBI. Kreps verified that Rollason did make everyone involved aware that his daughter was employed by BBI as the Deputy Director. Kreps further advised there was a Proclamation issued by her in 2013 welcoming the Best Buddies Program to the Village.

***Document/Audio/Video Review:***

1. Proclamation by the Mayor and Commissioners of NBV supporting the Best Buddies efforts.
2. Letter from Florida Governor Hon. Rick Scott to Vice- Mayor Lim dated Dec, 2013, thanking him for participating in the Best Buddies program.
3. Letter of complaint by Jose Torres- undated.
4. Miscellaneous E-Mails concerning the Best Buddies Program.

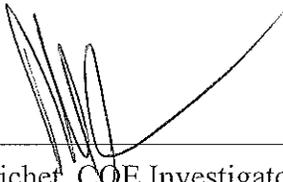
**Conclusion(s):**

As a result of the interviews, and the review of the documents provided, it appears that Rollason did not use his official position to influence members of the NBV Commission to authorize a position to hire a person from the BBI program in order to benefit his daughter.

Neither Rollason nor his daughter profits or is enhanced by the arrangement between the Village and BBI, and no nepotism violation, i.e., no employment or supervision Rollason's daughter is implicated. BBI does not profit by having a person with IDD placed, as part of its integrated employment program, with the Village.

Advocate Michael Murawski advised that no further action would be taken since there does not appear to be any ethics- related violations. Accordingly, it is recommended that the above case be closed.

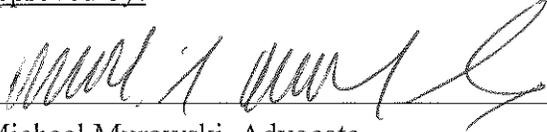
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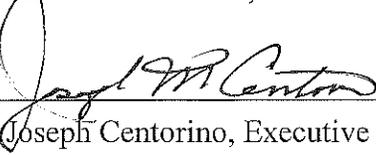
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Breno Penichet, COE Investigator

Approved by:

  
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Michael Murawski, Advocate

  
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Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

12/20/15

Date Closed