

PI 16-06

**Perez, Martha D. (COE)**

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**From:** Benford, Russell (Office of the Mayor)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 12:26 PM  
**To:** Perez, Martha D. (COE)  
**Cc:** Murawski, Michael P. (COE)  
**Subject:** Re: Complaint re: Latawun Bess, JSD

Thank you.

Russell Benford  
Deputy Mayor

On Feb 11, 2016, at 12:16 PM, Perez, Martha D. (COE) <[perezmd@miamidade.gov](mailto:perezmd@miamidade.gov)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Benford,

Attached please find an anonymous complaint referred to our Office by the OIG. Since this involves a personnel matter, we are forwarding it to your office for appropriate action.

Thank you.

**Martha D. Perez**  
Staff Attorney  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST  
19 West Flagler St. Suite 820  
Miami, FL 33130  
(305)350-0656  
[PEREZMD@miamidade.gov](mailto:PEREZMD@miamidade.gov)

Miami-Dade County is a public entity subject to Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes concerning public records. E-mail messages are covered under such laws and thus subject to disclosure. This message is confidential. It may also be privileged or otherwise protected by work product immunity or other legal rules.

<Complaint Referral-Latawun Bess,JSD.pdf>

**Perez, Martha D. (COE)**

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**From:** Perez, Martha D. (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 12:17 PM  
**To:** Benford, Russell (Office of the Mayor)  
**Cc:** Murawski, Michael P. (COE)  
**Subject:** Complaint re: Latawun Bess, JSD  
**Attachments:** Complaint Referral-Latawun Bess,JSD.pdf

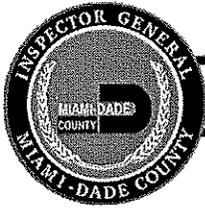
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# Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General  
A State of Florida Commission on Law Enforcement Accredited Agency  
19 West Flagler Street ♦ Suite 220 ♦ Miami, Florida 33130  
Phone: (305) 375-1946 ♦ Fax: (305) 579-2656  
Visit our website at: [www.miamidadeig.org](http://www.miamidadeig.org)

To: Joseph M. Centorino, Executive Director  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (COE)

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: January 27, 2016

Subject: Complaint Referral CR1103-1516-M

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The Office of the Inspector General received an anonymous complaint concerning the alleged exploitation of official position by Latawun Bess, Juvenile Services Department Manager.

The complainant stated that Ms. Bess continually abuses her authority by directing her subordinates to perform work on their own time. An example of one subordinate being directed to cook food on her own time and paying for the groceries herself is described in the complaint. The attached complaint has additional details.

We are referring this complaint to you for your review and for whatever action you deem appropriate. Our office will not be taking any action.

MC/mm

Attachment

January 8, 2016

MDC-OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL  
2016 JAN 11 PM 4:06

RE. Report of Management abuse and unethical behavior.

Attention Miami Dade Inspector General Office.

On October 23, 2015, Miss. Latawun Bess, Juvenile Services Department Manager, planned and coordinated a surprise Birthday Party on October 23, 2015, for the Morris Copeland, Director of the Juvenile Assessment center (275 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street) . Miss. Bess directed one of her subordinate employees (JAC PRT Sharron) to cook an elaborate meal consisting of various meats and side dishes, on her own time with no compensation. Miss. Bess told her she would pay her for her out of pocket expenses.

The subordinate Sharron, (JAC PRT records technician) cooked the food on her own time, for 50 employees at the JAC. Sharron ended up paying \$300.00 out of her pocket for the meal. Miss. Bess only paid Sharron \$157.00 back for the food purchased. Sharron was forced to incur the remaining costs out of her own pocket. She has a hard enough time making ends meet on her salary. This has placed undue financial hardship on Sharron (PRT).

Miss. Bess abused her authority by directing her subordinate to work for the JAC on her own free time, and then failing to reimburse her the costs incurred for this food purchase.

Miss. Bess has a history of abusing her authority with her employees, harassing employees for petty issues, using intimidation and demeaning behavior toward many of her employees. Many previous employees have resigned from the JAC to get away from her. She is a horrible person.

Miss. Bess is currently in a personal (sexual) relationship with the adult son of Morris Copeland's direct supervisor. This is why Morris Copeland is afraid to correct Miss Bess at work and allows Miss Bess behave unethically. This is a good example of nepotism/favoritism because of her inappropriate relationship with Morris Copeland boss. Morris Copeland judgment as the Director is compromised because of this relationship.

Miss Bess needs to be disciplined according. She has no business in a Management position. Morris Copeland also needs to be disciplined. Miss Bess treats her employees like servants. She uses her computer for personal reasons like purchasing makeup and shoes, Facebook, etc.

Sharron was not compensated for working on her own time by Miss Bess. This abuse of labor will be reported to US Department of Labor.

Miss Bess needs to practice what she preaches. She is unethical and an abusive manager.

I prefer to remain anonymous in fear of retaliation, which is another one of Miss Bess's practices.

CR 1103 - 1516 - M