



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Report of Inquiry

Investigator: Sylvia Batista

Case: PI16-033	Case Name:	Date Opened: 07/18/16	Date Closed: 8/19/16
Complainant(s): Dusty Melton,	Subject(s): City of Miami Beach Lobbyists Code violations.	CASE CLOSED	

Allegation(s):

The COE received an e-mail from Dusty Melton (Melton) on 07/08/16 in which he informed that the Office of the City Clerk for the City of Miami Beach has allowed several lobbyists to register without making the required disclosure of compensation on their lobbyist registration forms.

Relevant Law:

City of Miami Beach Ordinance No. 2010-3689 amending City Code Chapter 2, Article VII, Division 3 entitled "Lobbyists", Section 2-482.

Investigation:

07/25/16 – E-mail from the COE to the City Clerk, Rafael Granado, requesting information on the registrants missing the required information, and what steps are being taken to correct the situation.

07/26/16 – Reply e-mail from Granado to the COE advising that they are in the process

of working with the Office of the City Attorney to update the Lobbyist Registration form to include language that says, "if you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a". This would ensure that all parts of the form are completed.

Granado explains that they are also in the process of reviewing each of the files for the current active lobbyist to see how they responded to the compensation section. For the incomplete files, the lobbyists will be asked to supplement the information. This task will take some time to complete. Granado asks that Melton provide the names of the lobbyists that he has found omitted the information or improperly answered the compensation section. Those would be reviewed immediately.

08/04/16 – E-mail from Granado to the COE wherein he advises that they have reviewed the files of all current active City lobbyists and have determined that 26 lobbyists need to provide additional information regarding their compensation. Attached are copies of the letters sent to all current active registered lobbyists asking that they provide the additional information. They are as follows:

1. Rafael E. Andrade – four issues
2. Jose A. Bermudez – two issues
3. Reinaldo Borges – one issue
4. George Burgess – one issue
5. Ralph Choeff – three issues
6. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla – two issues
7. Ira M. Elegant – one issue
8. Bernardo M. Fort-Brescia – one issue
9. Jose Fuentes – two issues
10. Jose Gelabert-Navia – one issue
11. Ira D. Giller – one issue
12. Jose L. Gomez – one issue
13. Alexander Heckler – fourteen issues
14. Alfonso Jurado – one issue
15. Felix M. Lasarte – one issue
16. Michael Llorente – twelve issues
17. Ethan Loeb – one issue
18. Kevin N. Markow – one issue
19. Diana C. Mendez – four issues
20. Richard Pinsky – one issue
21. Elinette Ruiz – three issues
22. Jeremy Shir – one issue

Conclusion(s):

City Clerk, Rafael Granado, took remedial action by reviewing the files of all active City of Miami Beach registered lobbyists, and mailing letters to 26 lobbyists determined to need additional information regarding their compensation on their registration form. Additionally, Granado said that the City Clerk's office is in the process of working with the Office of the City Attorney to update the compensation section of the Lobbyist Registration Form to ensure that all parts of the form are complete.

This matter can be closed for now pending follow up with the City Clerk as to which lobbyists came into compliance after notification from the Clerk.

(Signature)



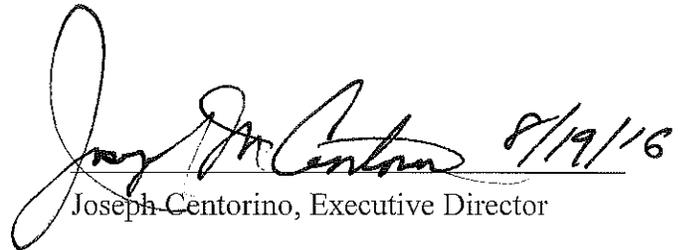
Sylvia Batista,

(Investigator's name), COE Investigator

Approved by:



Michael Murawski, Advocate



Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

Murawski, Michael P. (COE)

Subject: FW: Inv.Rep.Miami.Bch.Lobbyist.compensation.omission.PI16-33.dotm
Attachments: Inv.Rep.Miami.Bch.Lobbyist.compensation.omission.PI16-33.dotm

From: Batista, Sylvia (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2016 4:01 PM
To: Murawski, Michael P. (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE)
Subject: Inv.Rep.Miami.Bch.Lobbyist.compensation.omission.PI16-33.dotm

Granado has solved the problem by contacting all active lobbyists who had not provided their compensation information and got the information from all but two of them. Those two lobbyists will be withdrawing their issues and will be suspended until they provide their withdrawal notices.

Granado also created a new registration form that makes it very difficult to overlook the question, and makes it easier for the associates in the Clerk's office to notice when the information as to compensation is omitted.