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**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST**

**In re: VALERIE NEWMAN**  
\_\_\_\_\_ /

**C 09-31**

**PUBLIC REPORT AND ORDER TO  
DISMISS WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

COMPLAINANT, Horace G. Feliu, then Mayor of the City of South Miami, filed the above-referenced COMPLAINT on October 28, 2009, alleging ethics violations against RESPONDENT Valerie Newman, a City of South Miami Commissioner.

The COMPLAINT contended that on October 6, 2009, at City of South Miami Commission meeting, Commissioner Newman gained special benefits when she voted to dismiss the City Manager. The dismissal of the City Manager, in effect, obstructed the City Manager's pending lawsuit against Commissioner Newman and, consequently, allowed Commissioner Newman to avoid legal fees in her defense.

Pursuant to the Code of Miami-Dade County, § 2-1068, the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission extends "to any person required to comply with the ... County or municipal Code of Ethics Ordinances." The COMPLAINT suggested possible violations of the County Code at § 2-11.1 (d), *Voting conflicts*, and § 2-11.1 (g), *Exploitation of official position*.

The Ethics Commission staff began an investigation to uncover evidence in support of, or opposition to, a PROBABLE CAUSE finding but, after several months, could not obtain clarification in the matter. Consequently, on February 25, 2010, the Ethics Commission granted the Assistant Advocate's MOTION TO DISMISS THE COMPLAINT WITHOUT PREJUDICE. Once certain legal questions are resolved in the City, the COMPLAINT could be refiled.

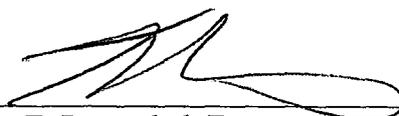
Therefore it is:

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT** the COMPLAINT against RESPONDENT Valerie Newman is hereby DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on February 25, 2010.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS  
& PUBLIC TRUST

By:

  
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Kerry E. Rosenthal, Esq.  
Chairman

Signed on this date: 3/8/10