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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

In re: Raquel Cruz-Pino

Case No: 10-23

**PUBLIC REPORT AND ORDER ACCEPTING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

The Advocate filed the above-captioned complaint against Raquel Cruz-Pino ("Respondent") for alleged violation of Section 2-11.1(g) (misuse of official position). The complaint alleged the Respondent used her official position to avoid paying for pet tags and continued to use a "take-home" vehicle in violation of departmental policy.

The Respondent was a Code Enforcement Officer for the Animal Services Department. In 2009, the Respondent received two citations for her dog: 1) failure to vaccinate and 2) failure to obtain a license for a sterilized dog. Count I of the complaint alleged the Respondent instructed a department employee to void the citations in the department's computer system.

Count II of the complaint alleged the Respondent used a take-home vehicle in violation of departmental policy. In 2006, the Respondent was issued a vehicle and a gas card. In 2008, due to budget cuts, the department discontinued use of take-home vehicles and instructed employees to use pool cars. However, the Respondent continued to use her take-home vehicle and fuel card for a year despite department requests to turn in both the vehicle and the gas card.

On June 23, 2010, the Ethics Commission granted the Respondent's Motion for Continuance of the probable cause hearing. On July 20, 2010, after reviewing the pleadings and the Advocate's probable cause memorandum, the Ethics Commission found probable cause. Subsequently, the Ethics Commission set the matter for public hearing at the request of the Advocate.

On October 28, 2010, the Advocate presented a proposed settlement agreement wherein the Respondent agreed not to contest the allegations in Count two (the take-home vehicle) of the complaint. The Ethics Commission agreed to dismiss Count I (the tag violations) of the complaint. The Respondent also agreed to pay fines in the amount of five hundred (\$500) dollars and restitution in the amount of eleven hundred forty-three dollars and sixty-nine

(\$1143.69) cents over a period not to exceed thirty-six months. The Respondent will pay the fees on an installment basis with a minimum payment of forty-five (\$45) dollars for thirty-five months and a final payment of sixty-eight dollars and sixty-nine (\$68.69) cents on the final month. Each payment will due on or before the first of each month.

On October 28, 2010, upon review of the pleadings and being otherwise advised in the premises, the Ethics Commission accepted the proposed settlement agreement and ordered the complaint dismissed.

Therefore it is:

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT** the Complaint is **DISMISSED** in accordance with the terms of the attached settlement agreement.

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust in public session on October 28, 2010.

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

By: 

Kerry Rosenthal  
Chairperson

cc: Marcus Braswell, Attorney for Respondent

