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

In re: RUIZ v. MARONO
_____ /

C 12-29

**PUBLIC REPORT
AND
FINAL DISMISSAL ORDER**

Carlos L. Ruiz, a Corporal with the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), filed the above-referenced complaint against Respondent Manuel Marono, Mayor of the City of Sweetwater. The complainant alleged that the Mayor exploited his official position when the Mayor contacted representatives of the Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) and FHP to have Corporal Ruiz removed from off-duty employment in the City of Sweetwater. If true, the Mayor's action could possibly violate Section 2-11.1 (g) of the County Ethics Code, *Prohibition on exploitation of official position*.

In May 2012, Corporal Ruiz was assigned by FPL to work off-duty at an FPL construction site in the City of Sweetwater. The assignment was made without knowledge that Sweetwater Ordinance No. 3589 requires that all off-duty police assignments be coordinated with the Sweetwater Police Department and that Sweetwater officers receive priority in hiring. An investigation into this matter revealed that Mayor Marono contacted FPL, FHP and the Governor's Office to advise

them of the ordinance.

Pursuant to the Code of Miami-Dade County at Sec. 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 County Ethics Code at Sec. 2-11.1(a) extends the jurisdiction of the County Ethics Ordinance to municipal elected officials.

On August 16, 2012, at the recommendation of the Advocate, the Ethics Commission moved to dismiss the complaint for lack of probable cause. The investigation did not reveal any reasonably trustworthy facts to conclude that the Mayor should be charged with a violation of the County Ethics Code. On the contrary, he acted within his rights to clarify a city ordinance.

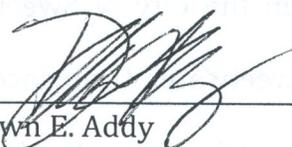
Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT the complaint against Respondent Manuel Marono is hereby dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on August 16, 2012.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS
& PUBLIC TRUST

By:



Dawn E. Addy
Chair

Signed on this date: Nov. 1, 2012