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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

In re: Planas v. Morgan

C 13-17

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL DISMISSAL ORDER

Juan-Carlos Planas, a private citizen, filed the above-referenced complaint against J.P. Morgan, a private citizen, alleging violations of the Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance at Sec. 2-11.1.1 of the County Code.

The complainant suggested that respondent J.P. Morgan distributed electioneering communications that were inaccurate and without proper disclaimers for the benefit of Commissioner Michael Góngora, a candidate for Miami Beach Mayor. Commissioner Góngora was one of six mayoral candidates who originally qualified to run in the Miami Beach election scheduled for November 5, 2013.

The complainant acknowledged that Mr. Morgan was not publicly affiliated with any mayoral campaign staff in Miami Beach and was not registered with any political committee, committee of continuous existence, or electioneering communications organization in the State of Florida.

Pursuant to the Miami-Dade County Code at Secs. 2-1068 and 2-11.1 (y), the Ethics Commission has jurisdiction to enforce the County's Ethical Campaign

Practices Ordinance against candidates for local office and individuals who are part of these candidates' campaign staffs.

Meeting in public session on August 8, 2013, the Ethics Commission dismissed the complaint against J.P. Morgan for lack of legal sufficiency because the respondent—a private citizen who was not publicly identified as a member of any mayoral candidate's staff—did not fall within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission.

Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT the complaint against J.P. Morgan is hereby dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on August 8, 2013.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST
By:

Charlton Copeland

Chair

Signed on this date: