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CLERK, CIRCUIT COURT  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLA.  
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**MIAMI-DADE  
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST**

**In re:  
Demps v. Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins**

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**C 14-18**

**PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER**

J.L. Demps, a private citizen, filed the above-referenced complaint against Respondent Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins (Simpkins) for violating Section 2-11.1(m) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance entitled "Certain appearances and payment prohibited." Investigation determined that Simpkins received an opinion letter from the Ethics Commission in December of 2010 advising her of the prohibition of appearing before County boards representing her non-profit agency Majestic's Youth & Arts Academy (Majestic). Nevertheless, Simpkins subsequently did appear before a County board on behalf of Majestic on three occasions, October 10, 2012, October 9, 2013 and January 8, 2014.

The Ethics Commission found Probable Cause to believe that Simpkins violated Section 2-11.1 (m) of the Ethics Code; however, pursuant to Section 2-1074 of the County Code, the Ethics Commission dismissed the case and ordered that Simpkins be issued a Letter of Instruction.

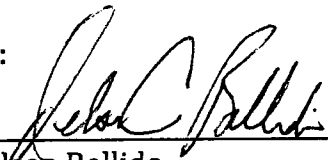
Wherefore it is:

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that COMPLAINT C 14-18 against respondent Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins is hereby concluded.

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on April 16, 2014.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS  
& PUBLIC TRUST

By:



Nelson Bellido  
Chair

Signed on this date: 4/28/2014



## **LETTER OF INSTRUCTION**

To: Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins

From: Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

Re: Ethics Complaint C14-18

Date: May 8, 2014

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An ethics complaint was filed against Respondent Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins by J.L. Demps (Demps). Demps alleged that Ms. Simpkins violated Section 2-11.1 (m) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance.

On April 16, 2014, the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust determined that there was probable cause to sustain the violations but dismissed the case pursuant to Section 2-1074 (s) of the Code of Miami-Dade County and ordered a Letter of Instruction be issued.

WHEREFORE, the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust issues this Letter of Instruction.

Section 2-11.1 (m) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance entitled "*Prohibition on appearances before County boards by certain individuals on behalf of third parties*" states, in pertinent part:

"No person included in the terms defined in Subsections (b) (1), (5), (6) and (13) [commissioners, the mayor, departmental personnel, employees and contract staff] shall appear before any County board or agency and make a presentation on behalf of a third person with respect to any license, contract, certificate, ruling, decision, opinion, rate, schedule, franchise, or other benefit sought by the third person

Ms. Simpkins is an employee of the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue Department and is an officer and director in her own private, non-profit organization Majestic's Youth & Arts Academy (Majestic).

She made presentations before the Gould's Community Action and Human Services Department, Public Housing and Community Development (CAHSD/PHCD) Community Advisory Committee on behalf of her private non-profit organization, on three separate occasions, October 10, 2012, October 09, 2013, and

January 8, 2014. Those appearances by her on behalf of Majestic are in direct contravention of Section 2-11 (m).

In December of 2010, INQ 10-201 was issued to Ms. Simpkins advising her she was prohibited from appearing before any County board on behalf of her own non-profit. We hope that this Letter of Instruction makes it crystal clear to Ms. Simpkins that she cannot make any appearances before County boards on behalf of Majestic or any other third party. Ms. Simpkins has advised the Ethics Commission that she understands the restrictions on her and has other individuals at her disposal who could make presentations for her on behalf of Majestic in the future.

Ms. Simpkins is explicitly instructed by this letter that she is prohibited from appearing before any County board or agency to make a presentation on behalf of Majestic or any other third party. While the COE investigation did not find any evidence to indicate that Ms. Simpkins made any appearances while on County time or while wearing her county firefighter's uniform she is reminded that engaging in any of that activity would constitute a violation of 2-11.1 (g) of the Code entitled "Exploitation of official position prohibited."

The Commission is hopeful that Ms. Simpkins will be guided by this Letter of Instruction in all her future actions concerning her involvement with Majestic and its interactions with any County boards or agencies.