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

**In re:
Balsera v. Cason**

C 15-14

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

Alfredo Balsera (Balsera), a private citizen, filed the above-referenced complaint against James Cason (Cason), who was- at the time- a candidate for Mayor of Coral Gables (Cason subsequently won the election). Balsera alleged that Cason violated the mandatory provisions of the Ethical Campaign Practices ordinance (ECPO). That ordinance states, in pertinent part, that a candidate for municipal office shall not:

"With actual malice publish or cause to be published by writing, printing, picture, effigy, sign or otherwise than by mere speech an untrue statement about another candidate or a member of his...staff which exposes said person to hatred, contempt or ridicule or causes said person to be shunned or avoided, or injured in his or her business occupation."

A legally sufficient complaint exists where there are allegations of a violation of an ordinance within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission, purportedly committed by an individual within the authority of the Ethics Commission.

Balsera alleged that Cason referred to him as a "paid mouthpiece" (for Cason's opponent] and a "paid" neighbor, on his campaign Facebook page.

On May 13, 2015, in open session, the Ethics Commission dismissed this complaint as not legally sufficient based on the Advocates recommendation.

Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C 15-14 is hereby concluded.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on May 13, 2015.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS &
PUBLIC TRUST

By:



Judge Lawrence Schwartz
Vice-Chair

Signed on this date: 5/19/15