

BOOK OF THE BOARD

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST



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MIAMI-DADE
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

In re:

C 16-12 (A&B)

Vincent Brown

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

Two employees of the City of Opa-locka, Charmaine Parchment (Parchment) and Delia Kennedy (Kennedy), filed complaints against Respondent, Opa-locka City Attorney Vincent Brown (Brown), accusing him of deliberately releasing confidential information specifically, the existence of their Federal Grand Jury subpoenas, which resulted in threats and harassment, and the potential for future job-related retaliation.

Neither Federal rules nor legal precedent provided clear guidance as to the confidential nature of Grand Jury subpoenas in this instance or whether third parties, such as the city attorney was in essence, acting as an agent of the Federal government, prohibited from discussing or disclosing the existence of the subpoena. The investigation therefore was unable determine whether the information Brown disseminated was "confidential."

Additionally, no evidence was uncovered to support the charge that Brown deliberately disseminated the e-mail with the intent of intimidating potential witnesses.

On August 10, 2016, in open session, the Ethics Commission found there was no probable cause to sustain the complaint and dismissed it.

Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C 16-12(A&B) against respondent Vincent Brown Ruiz is hereby concluded.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on this 10th day of August, 2016.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS &
PUBLIC TRUST

By:

Judge Lawrence A. Schwartz
Chair

Signed on: 8/23/16

C16-12(A&B)

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Final Order