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COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE, FLA.



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MIAMI-DADE
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

In re:
Escobedo, O'Donoghue, Perry v.
Kent Harrison Robbins

C 16-16

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

Frank Escobedo, Daeja O'Donoghue and Isaac Perry, members of the Spring Garden Residents Association (collectively referred to as SGRA), filed the above-referenced complaint against Respondent, Kent Harrison Robbins, Attorney. SGRA alleged that Robbins lobbied before the City of Miami Historic and Environmental Board (HEB) on May 5, 2015, without being registered, in violation of Section 2-654(a) of the City of Miami Code- the City's Lobbying Ordinance (Ordinance).

The Ordinance states, in pertinent part, that a person *may not* lobby until he or she has registered with the city clerk *and* has submitted a certificate of completion of the ethics course provided by the Ethics Commission. Robbins attended the hearing and advised the HEB that, although he had submitted the lobbyist registration and paid the fee, he had been unable to attend the ethics course as required because the course was not being offered until later in the month. Begging the HEB's indulgence, the Board allowed him to speak on behalf of the SGRA.

Pursuant to the Code of Miami-Dade County at §§ 2-1068 and 2-11.1(a), the Ethics Commission is empowered to enforce County and municipal Code of Ethics ordinances.

On August 10, 2016, in closed session, the Ethics Commission held a probable cause hearing and found that there was insufficient evidence to substantiate a claim that Robbins violated Section 2-654 (a) of the City of Miami Code- the Lobbying Ordinance, as Robbins relied on an interpretation of the language in the Ordinance which arguably gave the board discretion to allow him to lobby despite not completing the ethics course.

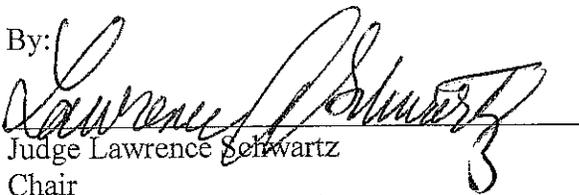
In open session, the Ethics Commission voted unanimously to find No Probable Cause and dismissed the case.

Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C16-16 against Respondent, Kent Harrison Robbins, is hereby dismissed.

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

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON
ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

By: 
Judge Lawrence Schwartz
Chair

Signed on this date: 8/23/16