



CLERK OF THE BOARD

2017 MAY 30 PM 1:15

17th CIRCUIT & COUNTY CLERK
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLA.
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**MIAMI-DADE
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST**

**In re:
Orlando Lopez**

C 17-02

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

J.C. Planas, Esq. (Planas), filed this complaint on behalf of Providing Effective Government for All Residents (PEGFAR), a committee formed for the recall of Mayor Lopez, against Sweetwater Mayor Orlando Lopez (Lopez). Planas alleged that Lopez exploited his official position by ordering the City Clerk, Carmen Garcia (Garcia), to return from the Miami-Dade County Elections Department (where she was dropping off the recall petitions) and make copies in the city of all the recall petitions delivered by PEGFAR, all with the intent to benefit the Mayor by obtaining the records and identifying the petitioners.

Mayor Lopez did not contact Garcia on the phone nor did he order Garcia to return to the city. Notwithstanding, the recall petition forms are public records which were received by the City of Sweetwater and specifically the Clerk, in the conduct of official city business and thus, necessitated copying for record management purposes.

On May 10, 2017, in closed session, the Ethics Commission's Staff Attorney recommended that the case be dismissed.

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

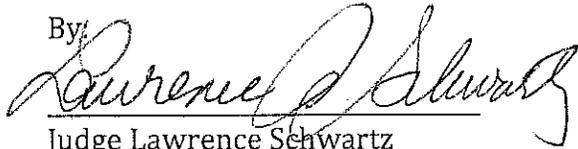
Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C17-02 against Respondent, Orlando Lopez, is hereby dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on May 10, 2017.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS
& PUBLIC TRUST

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence Schwartz", written over a horizontal line.

Judge Lawrence Schwartz
Chair

Signed on this date: 5-22-17