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MIAMI-DADE  
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

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CLERK OF THE BOARD  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLA.  
#1

IN RE:  
Alex Rey

C 17-26

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

Michael Pizzi, a private citizen and former Mayor of the Town of Miami Lakes (Town) filed the above-referenced complaint against Respondent, Town Manager Alex Rey (Rey). Pizzi alleged that Rey violated the Citizens' Bill of Rights *Truth in Government* provision (the Ordinance) by knowingly furnishing false information on a public matter and knowingly omitting significant facts when giving information to the public at a Council meeting.

On September 5, 2017, at the Town's Council meeting, Rey presented a Resolution to approve a settlement agreement from Evelyn Roig pertaining to a debt she owed to the Town on an Agreed Final Judgment on Costs (Order), *Roig v. Town of Miami Lakes*, Case No. 09-56353 CA 24. During the meeting, Rey was questioned about the Order. Unable to provide accurate information on the costs involved, the Resolution was tabled by the Council until a later date.

Pizzi alleged six instances where Rey violated the Ordinance. Investigation into these allegations and a legal analysis of the Ordinance revealed the following:

Allegation #1- *Failing to disclose a close relationship with Roig for close to two decades*- is not material or significant to the main issue before the Council. In addition, investigation revealed no evidence supporting a close personal relationship between Roig and Rey.

Allegation #2- *Stating to the Council that the judgment was for attorney's fees that were not paid-* is not accurate. Although the Memorandum attached to the Resolution may have stated "attorney's fees and costs", Rey clarified at the public meeting that there were no attorney's fees involved in the judgment. Additionally, whether the amount owed on this debt is for attorney's fees, costs or both is not significant to the main issue before the Council.

Allegation #3- *Stating to the Council that the total amount of the debt was \$3, 516.00-* was an oversight. That was actually the original amount of the debt without the interest. Rey's failure to convey the accrued interest is immaterial to the ultimate decision of whether to approve a \$200.00 settlement on a \$3,500.00 *plus* debt.

Allegation #4- *Stating to the Council that this was a pending matter and settlement-is* meritless; this was in fact a *settlement* of a debt *pending* before the Town.

Allegation #5- *Informing the Council that he did not know how much of the judgment consisted of attorney's fees-* is not accurate. Rey clarified at the public meeting that there were no attorney's fees involved in the judgment. A discussion regarding a "split on expenses" was taken out of context by the complainant. Additionally, this statement is neither material nor significant to the main issue before the Council.

Allegation #6- *Failing to disclose that the Town had paid a law firm over \$70,000 to handle matters including the Roig case-* is neither material nor significant.

The main issue before the Town Council on September 5, 2017, was whether to settle \$3,500.00 *plus* judgment for \$200.00. Rey is not a lawyer and is not familiar with legal terminology. Although his presentation to the Council on this item may have been confusing and ambiguous without the benefit of the Order, Rey did not *knowingly* deceive the Council on the settlement offer. The alleged false or omitted statements fail to establish probable cause of a violation of the Ordinance.

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 C17-26 against Respondent, Alex Rey, is hereby dismissed.

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on January 17, 2018.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON  
ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

By:



H. Jeffrey Cutler, Esq.  
Chair

Signed on this

date: 01/23/2018

