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APPROVED 7/18/2018

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS:     *W*    

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

**LETTER OF INSTRUCTION**

To: Chief Andy Alvarez

From: Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

Re: In Re: Andy Alvarez (C18-22-05)

Date: July 11, 2018

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The Ethics Advocate filed a complaint against Andy Alvarez (Alvarez), Chief of the Marine Services Bureau of the Miami-Dade Fire Department (MDFD), alleging that Alvarez violated Section 2-11.1 (g) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics entitled, "Exploitation of official position prohibited."

Investigation determined and Alvarez admitted that on February 18, 2018, he took his wife on a County Fire Boat to transport them to the Miami Boat Show. Alvarez admitted that his wife had no valid County-related business reason to be on the boat and he did not have her sign a liability waiver.<sup>1</sup>

On June 20, 2016, the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust accepted Alvarez's plea of No Contest to one count of violating section 2-11.1 (g) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance and ordered him to pay a fine of \$500.00, costs in the amount of \$345.30 and accept a Letter of Instruction.

WHEREFORE, the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust issues this Letter of Instruction to Andy Alvarez:

Section 2-11.1(g) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics is entitled

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<sup>1</sup> Respondent pled No Contest to the violation charged maintaining, however, that there were mitigating circumstances surrounding the incident. Respondent authored a memorandum explaining these circumstances and said memorandum has been placed into the official record of the case.

“Exploitation of official position prohibited.” It states, in pertinent part, “No [County employee] shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or herself or others.”

Alvarez admitted that he contacted Captain Maria Shotte on Fireboat 73 and asked if she could give him, his wife and two other persons<sup>2</sup> a ride to the water taxi from which they could get to the Boat Show. He admitted to doing this in order to avoid having to walk almost one mile to get to the water taxi stop. Similarly, on or about 4:00 p.m. that same day (February 18, 2018), Alvarez again summoned Fireboat 73 to pick him and his group up at the Boat Show. Alvarez admitted that he called for the Fireboat this time because the line for the water taxi was “too long.”

Alvarez attempted to justify his actions by claiming that his main purpose of attending the Boat Show was to meet with vendors and gather information about an emergency purchase of a Fire Boat. However, Alvarez was off-duty and had brought his wife along with him ostensibly because he is away from home for so many hours during the week. Alvarez admitted however that his wife was not engaged in any County-related activity at the Boat Show. Dispatching the MDFD Fire Boat, twice, necessarily involved manpower and other County resources being used for no other reason than the personal benefit of Alvarez, his wife and friends. This action clearly demonstrates Mr. Alvarez’s exploitation of his official position and indeed, Alvarez acknowledged it was something he should not have done.

As a Chief with the MDFD, Mr. Alvarez holds a position of leadership. We are hopeful that Mr. Alvarez has learned from this experience and will use this Letter of Instruction to guide his future conduct and set an example for the men and women in his command.

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<sup>2</sup> One individual was a retired MDFD Fire Fighter the other a current MDFD Fire Fighter.