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MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLA.
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In Re: Matthew Pigatt

C19-11-03

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

Opa-locka City Clerk Johanna Flores (Flores) filed this complaint against the Mayor of Opa-locka, Matthew Pigatt (Pigatt). The complaint made several allegations that center around Complainant's central theme i.e., that Pigatt is exploiting his official position by attempting to run the City as a strong Mayor when he in fact is not a strong Mayor.

Specifically, Complainant made six (6) allegations against Pigatt:

Allegation #1: Pigatt "ordered" Flores to allow him to select the new executive assistant and issued an "order" to advise him in advance of any selection.

Investigation determined that Flores herself admitted that Pigatt never directed her to hire any person in particular and that she made the hiring decision by herself. She felt he did not like the decision she made because of the way he looked at her.

Allegation #2: Pigatt "ordered" the advertisement for a new deputy city clerk (legislative aide). This allegation was also determined to be false since the evidence showed that Pigatt never "ordered" the advertisement of the legislative aide position.

Allegation #3: Pigatt "ordered" Flores to attend meetings at his work location while he was a Commissioner. This allegation was unsupported by the evidence. The credible evidence shows that Mayor Pigatt, while he was still a Commissioner, requested the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to have pre-Commission meetings with him at his office located at Florida Memorial University, which is located about five minutes from City Hall. Pigatt even received an ethics opinion confirming that it was permissible for him to have such meetings.

Allegation #4: Pigatt attempted to have Flores improperly disqualify his mayoral opponents. This allegation was similarly unsupported by the evidence. The City Attorney did bring an action to disqualify two mayoral candidates from the election, but the lawsuit was based on the attorney's good faith belief that the two, who had both previously served as elected officials in the City, were barred by term limits.

Allegation #5: A vague, catch-all allegation that Pigatt generally acts as a strong mayor.

Allegation #6: Pigatt “attempted to influence the selection of the Deputy City Clerk position” was likewise unsupported by the evidence.

On July 17, 2019 the Ethics Commission found No Probable Cause to support the complaint and dismissed it.

Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C19-11-03 is dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on this 17th day of July, 2019.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON
ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

By:

H Jeffrey Cutler

H. Jeffrey Cutler

Chairman

Signed on : _____

07/18/2019