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CLERK, CIRCUIT & COUNTY CT
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLA.
#1

In re: Al Rolle

C19-34-09

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

Complainant, Rick Yabor (Yabor), filed this complaint against City of Homestead Police Chief Al Rolle (Rolle). Yabor alleged that Rolle engaged in active campaigning on behalf of Mayoral candidate Jeff Porter (Porter) while Rolle was in uniform and on duty while speaking during a public luncheon.

Yabor is an attorney who supported candidate Steve Shiver during the most recent municipal campaign for Mayor.¹ Yabor alleged that Rolle gave a speech “on or about August 26, 2019”² to the Homestead Rotary Club in which Rolle “encouraged the audience to vote for Jeff Porter for Mayor.” Yabor was not in attendance at this speech, but another candidate in the Mayoral race, Steven Losner (Losner), was.

No video or audio recording of Rolle’s appearance at the Rotary Club was found to exist. A photo of him appeared in the South Dade News Leader newspaper website showing Rolle at the Rotary lectern in uniform with a number of other individuals in attendance, including four members of Rolle’s Police Department command staff. The same photo appeared on the “True Homestead” blogsite a week later.

Losner described Rolle’s speech as “really rambling and defensive.” Losner stated that Rolle directly expressed his support for Jeff Porter: “When he said, ‘I support Jeff Porter,’ I don’t think that was anything but a campaign endorsement.”

Another lunch attendee, Michael Marcus, advised that, “Nothing that the Chief did was untoward.” He stated that Jeff Porter’s name came up because the Chief had worked for Porter for a time. “They got a lot accomplished. I did not perceive anything pertaining to the current race.” COE also spoke with another lunch attendee, Phil Marraccini, President of the Rotary Club of Homestead. Marraccini described the Rotary Club as “non-political.” Regarding Rolle’s speech, he stated, “We love Chief Rolle. He was talking about how great the Police [Department] is in Homestead.”

¹ The winning candidate was Steven Losner

² It was subsequently determined that the speech in question was given on August 16, 2019

In open session, on December 11, 2019, the Ethics Commission agreed with the Advocate's recommendation that the available evidence in this case is insufficient to sustain an ethics violation charge against Chief Rolle and dismissed the complaint for lack of probable cause.

Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C19-34-09 against Respondent Alexander Rolle is hereby dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on this 11th day of December 2019.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON
ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

By:



Nelson C. Bellido

Chairman

Signed on: 12/14/2019