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IN RE:

ETHICS COMPLAINT C 19-35-09

Paul Schwiep

Respondent

_____ /

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

The above-referenced complaint was filed against Respondent, Paul Schwiep (Schwiep), alleging that Schwiep lobbied the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) without being registered, in violation of Section 2-11.1(s) of the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, *Lobbying* (Ordinance).

The Ordinance states, in pertinent part, that a lobbyist is a person, firm or corporation employed or retained, whether paid or not, by a principal who seeks to encourage the passage, defeat or modification of [official] action...[Furthermore], all lobbyists shall, before engaging in any lobbying activities, register with the clerk of the board..."

Schwiep met the definition of a "lobbyist" when he appeared before the BCC on two separate occasions to express objection and/or opposition on behalf of several environmental organizations, including Friends of the Everglades, to an ordinance providing for the disposition of Application No. 8 relating to the SR 836 Extension and/or a Resolution amending the County's Comprehensive Development Master Plan as it relates to the SR 836 Extension project.

Investigation determined that the violations appear to have been inadvertent, unintentional or insubstantial. Moreover, Schwiep reasonably believed he did not have to register because he was appearing in self-representation.

On November 13, 2019, in closed session, the Ethics Commission found that the public interest would not be served by proceeding any further and the complaint should be dismissed. The Respondent should be provided with a Letter of Instruction.

Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C 19-35-10 against Respondent, Paul Schwiep, is hereby dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on November 13, 2019.

BY: _____


Nelson Bellido, Esq.

Vice-Chairman

Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

SIGNED ON: _____

