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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLA.
C19-46-11 #1

In re: Robert Ruano

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

Complainant, Gordon Sokoloff (Sokoloff), filed this complaint against Robert Ruano (Ruano). Sokoloff is the Chairperson of the City of Coral Gables' Transportation Advisory Board (TAB); Ruano sits on the TAB as a board member.

Sokoloff expressed concern about a *possible* conflict of interest that Ruano might have because Ruano has a for-profit company called Ecostrata which Sokoloff believes is a subcontractor to a company called H.W. Lochner which is the prime contractor on a City of Coral Gables bid for Multimodal Services including the development of the Bicycle Master Plan.

Sokoloff's complaint states that he is "asking for your opinion on Mr. Ruano's having *potentially* two conflicts of interest..."

Sokoloff's complaint fails to allege any specific instance of a voting conflict engaged in by Ruano or any other specific instance where Ruano has taken any action that would constitute a violation of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance. Moreover, the City of Coral Gables confirmed that Ruano's company, Ecostrata is not a subcontractor on the H.W. Lochner contract and accordingly Ruano has no conflict by serving on the TAB.¹

Legal sufficiency exists where there is an allegation of a violation of an ordinance within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission, purportedly committed by an individual within the authority of the Ethics Commission and filed with the Ethics Commission within three years of the alleged violation.

In open session, on December 11, 2019, the Ethics Commission agreed with the Advocate's recommendation that the complaint was not legally sufficient and dismissed it.

¹ Additionally, Mr. Ruano resigned from the TAB on November 19, 2019 thus rendering any question of a future conflict moot.

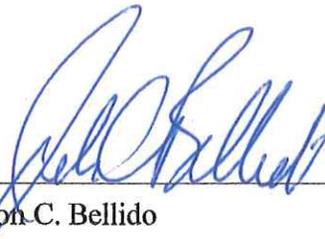
Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C19-46-11 against Respondent Robert Ruano 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: 12/16/2019