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The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of training, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to bolster public trust.

Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on September 11, 2019

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on September 11, 2019.

Ethics Commission Agrees to Consider “Bright-Line Rule” Opinion Regarding Voting Conflicts for Elected City and County Officials

ROO 19-04: The Ethics Commission agreed to further consider a recommended formal ethics opinion that would specify that city and county officials that hold certain positions with entities have a per se or automatic prohibited voting conflict that would prevent them from participating or voting on any matter that might directly or indirectly affect the entity. The proposed opinion arose out of a preliminary investigation of votes occurring in Key Biscayne, Florida.

Ethics Commission Finds Probable Cause in Exploitation Case Against Former Opa Locka Mayor and Commissioner John Riley

C19-05-02: The Ethics Commission found probable cause that former Opa Locka Mayor and Commissioner John Riley violated the exploitation of official position and financial disclosure sections of the County Ethics Code by allegedly interfering with police officers responding to landlord tenant matter and failing to disclose his financial relationship with the building’s owners. The matter now proceeds to hearing.

Ethics Commission Finds no Probable Cause in Citizens’ Bill of Rights, Right-to-be-Hheard Case Against Bay Harbor Islands Vice Mayor Joshua Fuller - Staff to Issue a Letter of Instruction

C19-27-07: The Ethics Commission found no probable cause that Bay Harbor Islands Vice Mayor Joshua Fuller violated the “Right to be Heard” clause of the County Citizens’ Bill of Rights when the Complainant Frances Neuhut was unable to address the Bay Harbor Islands Council but nevertheless directed staff to issue a letter of guidance to the Council reminding them of their obligations to allow citizens to address the Council.

Ethics Commission Issues a Letter of Instruction to North Miami Mayor Phillippe Bien-Aime in Matter Relating to Financial Disclosure Irregularities

C19-26-05: The Ethics Commission, having previously found probable cause that North Miami Mayor Phillippe Bien-Aime failed to report accurate information on his Financial Disclosure Forms but agreed to dismiss the Complaint with the Issuance of a Letter of Instruction. Mayor Bien-Aime impresses on the Mayor the importance of compliance with the Ethics Code and the filing of complete and accurate Financial Disclosures.

Ethics Commission Grants Request from Late Filing Miami Beach Lobbyist Andrew Suarez and Assesses a Fine

K19-03: The Ethics Commission reduced the fine against Miami Beach Lobbyist Andrew Suarez for being late in filing a lobbyist expenditure and compensation form.