



For Immediate Release: September 15, 2010  
Contact: Robert Meyers, Executive Director  
(305) 350-0613 or rmeyers@miamidade.gov

### **Lobbyists cited for not reporting expenses**

A lobbyist who registered with Miami-Dade County in 2007, but failed to file a Lobbyist Expenditure Statement as required by July first of the following year, has settled the complaint against him. Peter Gonzalez, who represented Maefield Holdings, LLC., will pay \$250 in administrative costs. In exchange, the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust will dismiss the pending complaint (**C 10-27**).

The Ethics Commission today also issued findings of probable cause against two lobbyists who failed to file the required Lobbyist Expenditure Statement. Complaints were filed against Eric Jackson (**C 10-28**), who registered to represent Telefax Medical in August of 2007, and Domenic Massari (**C 10-32**), who registered in March of 2007 as a lobbyist for SolarDiesel Corporation. Despite repeated reminders and notices, neither has completed the required form.

The Commission was asked through a Request for Opinion (**RQO 10-24**) to opine on a ruling by a Miami Beach city attorney who determined there is a business relationship between a lobbyist and an advisory board member, which, under that municipality's stringent ordinance, would prohibit the lobbyist's activities. Seth Frohlich, who serves on the city's Planning Board, has a seven percent share of a company that owns half of the Mondrian Condominium Hotel. Russell Galbut, who is registered to represent many entities in Miami Beach, is the Asset Manager of the company that owns the other half of the property. The city determined that since both men have a common business interest, Mr. Galbut should be barred from lobbying any government entity in Miami Beach. Ethics Commissioners expressed concern that broad ban could have a "chilling effect" and requested staff to meet with the Miami Beach city attorney to reconsider his interpretation of the law.

The Florida Ethics Commission asked (**RQO 10-25**) whether non-voting members of the Public Health Trust (PHT) are required to file financial disclosure statements. The Ethics Commission ruled that the section of the Conflict of Interest Ordinance that requires annual income reports [2-11.1 (i) (2)] does NOT apply to non-voting ex-officio members of the PHT. They include the Deans of the University of Miami and Florida International University Medical Schools, UM's Dean of Nursing, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Officer of the PHT, and a labor union representative.

*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 education, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.*

###