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Settlement reached over traffic stop

The Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust today approved a settlement with Miami City Commissioner Frank Carollo, who was accused of exploiting his official position by calling the Miami police chief after being pulled over for a traffic violation in Coconut Grove in August 2012. The investigation determined that, after being pulled over, Carollo called the chief, who subsequently called the area commander, who then told dispatchers to have the officer call him. The officer let Carollo go with a warning. During a public hearing today, Commissioner Carollo pleaded No Contest to the complaint (**C 12-32**) and agreed to pay a fine of \$1,000 plus investigative costs of \$1,404.15. Additionally, he will accept a Letter of Instruction, which is to be drafted and presented to the Ethics Commission at its monthly meeting on March 13, 2014.

After the settlement was unanimously approved, Ethics Commission Chairman Nelson Bellido said it would send a message to the community and other elected officials not to exploit their positions or give the appearance of doing so. "Our elected officials need to be held to a higher standard," Bellido added.

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.

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