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No Probable Cause Found in Complaint Filed Against City of Aventura Commission Candidate Rachel Saltzman Friedland

Hearing Examiner Rosa Rodriguez (Circuit Judge Retired) found No Probable Cause that City of Aventura Commission Seat 5 Candidate, Rachel Saltzman Friedland, violated the Mandatory and Voluntary Fair Campaign Practices provisions of Section 2-11.1.1 of the Miami-Dade County Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance.

The complaint was filed by City of Aventura Commissioner Gladys Mezrahi, who is running for re-election. She alleged that Saltzman Friedland responded to an email originally sent to Friedland by Aventura Commissioner Robert Shelley and made several statements, including that she {Mezrahi} posted misinformation about the issue of school on Yom Kippur on social media. The complaint also alleged that Saltzman Friedland took credit for "other people's work" by promoting misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic and that she "refused to do anything to protect Aventura's children" because she allegedly refused to engage in the community effort to oust a convicted sex offender from the community because she knew the sex offender personally from their time growing up in Colombia.

The expedited hearing was held virtually and was attended by Complainant Commissioner Mezrahi and her counsel Benedict Kuhene, Respondent Saltzman Friedland, and members of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust.

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 empower the community and bolster public trust.