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Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on March 11, 2020

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on March 11, 2020.

Village of Virginia Gardens Councilman, Public Works Director, and Other Village Employee Stipulate to Probable Cause

C 20-07-02, C 20-08-02, C 20-09-02: Village of Virginia Gardens Councilman, Jorge Arce, Public Works Director, Butch Martin, and Public Works Department employee, Robert Martin all stipulated to findings of Probable Cause for violating the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance entitled Exploitation of Official Position Prohibited, after Robert Martin and George Arce took gasoline that belonged to the Village and used it in their own personal vehicles. Butch Martin admitted giving them the gasoline. The complaints were dismissed with the agreement that they all accept a Letter of Instruction, reimburse the Village, and pay investigative costs.

Complaint Filed Against Councilman Elvis Maldonado Dismissed

C 20-13-02: The Ethics Commission found that a complaint filed against Miami-Dade Commission Candidate for District 9, Elvis Maldonado, was Not Legally Sufficient, and was Dismissed.

No Probable Cause and Dismissal in Complaints Filed Against City of North Miami Councilwoman

C 20-03-01, C 20-02-01: The Ethics Commission found there was No Probable Cause to sustain a complaint, (C 20-03-01) filed against City of North Miami Councilwoman Mary Estime-Irvin. In a separate complaint (C 20-02-01) filed against Ms. Estime Irvin, the Ethics Commission found that the complaint was Not Legally Sufficient and was Dismissed.

Complaint Filed Against Coral Gables Assistant Public Works Director Dismissed

C 20-05-01: The Ethics Commission found that a complaint filed against Coral Gables Assistant Public Works Director, Jessica Keller, was Not Legally Sufficient, and was Dismissed.

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.