

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST



In Re: Larisa Svechin

C 21-25-09

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

Complainant Dana Goldman, Commissioner and mayoral candidate in the City of Sunny Isles Beach (SIB), filed this complaint against Respondent Vice-Mayor, Larisa Svechin (Svechin), also a mayoral candidate in the upcoming November election, alleging that she violated Section (A)(2) of the Citizens' Bill of Rights titled Truth in Government, because Svechin's campaign material includes the statement "Re-elect Mayor Larisa "Laura" Svechin," when in fact, Svechin was never *elected* Mayor but rather, was appointed to the office.

Legal sufficiency exists where the complaint adequately alleges a violation of an ordinance within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission, committed by an individual within the authority of the Ethics Commission, based substantially on the personal knowledge of the Complainant and filed with the Ethics Commission within three years of the alleged violation.

The word "re-elect" may be used in political advertisements by an incumbent, such as Svechin, who was appointed to the office. DE 01-02, Department of Elections, April 14, 2001. In other words, the word "re-elect" in a political advertisement is tied to the *incumbent* status of the candidate, not the manner in which she came to hold the office.

On October 13, 2021, the Ethics Commission voted unanimously to dismiss the complaint for lack of legal sufficiency.

Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C21-25-09 against Respondent Svechin is hereby dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session at the virtual meeting held on October 13, 2021.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

By:

Judith Bernier
Vice-Chair

Signed:

10/21/2021

Cc: Michael Pizzi, Esq., Counsel for Respondent
Dana Goldman, Complainant