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Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on October 13, 2021

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public held a Commission Meeting on October 13, 2021. The following actions took place:

Recommendation to Issue a Formal Opinion to Miami-Dade County Commissioner Approved

The Ethics Commission approved the recommendation of the Executive Director and directed him to issue a formal opinion letter to the requestor, Miami-Dade Commissioner Raquel Regalado, in **RQO 21-01**. Commissioner Regalado previously sought direction from the COE as to whether she can host a radio show that discusses issues of local governance and whether hosting that show would impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties.

Letter of Instruction Ratified in Case Involving the Former Director of Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works

C 21-11-05: The Ethics Commission ratified a Letter of Instruction for Former Director of the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works, Alice Bravo. Ms. Bravo previously stipulated to a Finding of Probable Cause for violating the Continuing Application After County Service section of the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code.

Letter of Reprimand Ratified in Case Involving Town of Medley Councilwoman

C 21-13-05: The Ethics Commission ratified a Letter of Reprimand for Town of Medley Councilwoman Lily Stefano. Councilwoman Stefano previously stipulated to a finding of Probable Cause for violating the Further Prohibition on Transacting Business with the County and Exploitation of Official Position sections of the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code.

Letter of Reprimand Ratified in Case Involving County Vendor

C 21-22-08: The Ethics Commission ratified a Letter of Reprimand for County Vendor John Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy previously stipulated to a Finding of Probable Cause for violating the Prohibition on Transacting with the County section of the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code.

Motion for Stay approved in case involving former Opa Locka Commissioner

C 19-05-02: A Motion for Stay Pending Appeal was unanimously approved by the COE in a case involving former Opa Locka Commissioner John Riley. The COE previously found Mr. Riley to be in violation of the Financial Disclosure and Conflicting Employment sections of the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code and \$1,000 in fines and \$1,000 in investigative costs were ordered.

No Probable Cause Found in Case Involving Sunny Isles Beach City Commissioner

C 21-23-09: The Ethics Commission found No Probable Cause that Sunny Isles Beach Commissioner and candidate for Mayor Dana Goldman, violated the Truth in Government section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights by posting misleading endorsements on her campaign website.

Complaint Filed Against City of Sunny Isles Beach Mayor Dismissed

C 21-25-09: A complaint filed against City of Sunny Isles Beach Mayor, Larisa Svechio, was found to be Not Legally Sufficient and was dismissed. The complaint alleged that Mayor Svechio violated the Truth in Government Section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights when she used the term "Re-Elect" in her campaign material when in fact the Mayor was appointed to the position of Mayor. The Commission found that the use of the word was permitted.

Complaints filed against City of North Miami Beach Commissioners Dismissed

C 21-17-07 and C 21-18-07: Complaints filed against City of North Miami Beach Commissioners Paule Villard and McKenzie Fleurimond were found to be Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed. The complaints alleged that the Commissioners violated Section 2-1.1 of the North Miami Beach Code which imposes a duty to remain at commission meetings throughout their entirety absent exigent circumstances. The Commission concluded that it did not have jurisdictional authority to enforce that ordinance pursuant to the powers granted to it under its enabling ordinance.

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.