



701 NW 1st Court,
8th Floor, Miami, FL
33136
(305) 579-2594
Hotline: (786) 314-9560
ethics@miamidadegov

COMMISSIONERS

Nelson C. Bellido Esq.,
CHAIR
Dr. Judith Bernier,
VICE-CHAIR
Judge Lawrence A.
Schwartz
Charlton Copeland, Esq.
Wifredo "Willy" Gort

Executive Director

Jose J. Arrojo, Esq.

General Counsel

Martha D. Perez, Esq.

Advocate

Radia Turay, Esq.

For Press Inquiries:

Leonardo Mendoza
Public Information Officer
(305) 579-2594
Leonardo.Mendoza@
miamidade.gov

Town of Medley Councilwoman Arrested on Felony Fraud and Theft Related Charges

Miami (November 2, 2021) As a result of a joint investigation between the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (COE) and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Multi-Agency Public Corruption Unit Task Force, Town of Medley Councilwoman, Ana Lilia "Lilly" Stefano, has been arrested and charged with a First-Degree Felony count of Organized Scheme to Defraud and Second Degree Felony Grand Theft.

The case arose from an ethics investigation by the COE alleging that Stefano used her outside employment with the nonprofit Santana Moss Foundation, where she serves as its Executive Director, to sell donated food items from local food banks in violation of a donor agreement with the Feeding America Network, a nonprofit food bank serving needy residents of South Florida. Councilwoman Stefano had been previously sanctioned twice by the Ethics Commission. In October 2021, the Ethics Commission reprimanded and fined Ms. Stefano for violating the Ethics Code's voting conflict and exploitation of public position provisions when in her official capacity as Councilwoman for the Town of Medley, she used the power of her office to sponsor, discuss, and vote on an item that granted the Santana Moss Foundation the special benefit of gaining permanent access into the Lakeside Retirement Park in Medley.

In June 2021, Councilwoman Stefano was reprimanded and fined for using the Medley Town logo in flyers from "the Office of Councilwoman Lily Stefano" that were purportedly intended to "educate" voters in the Town about the upcoming elections when the evidence revealed that the flyer was actually purposed to encourage residents to vote for her and the slate of candidates she was endorsing for other elected offices in the Town.

The investigation established that retired NFL Football Player Santana Moss did not have any knowledge of Councilwoman Stefano's activities or her use of the nonprofit bearing his name for the described transactions. Mr. Moss fully cooperated with investigators.

Nelson C. Bellido, Chairperson of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust stated, "We thank the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office and the staff at the Ethics Commission involved in the investigation that led to the eventual arrest of Ms. Stefano. It is through their diligent efforts to combat fraud that we can try to deter others from committing similar acts that Ms. Stefano is alleged to have committed. Violating the Ethics Code, in this case on multiple occasions, uncovers criminal acts that the Ethics Commission reports to the State Attorney's Office and results in the eventual prosecution of such individuals. The Ethics Commission will continue to aggressively pursue those who violate the ethics code in pursuit of restoring the public trust in Miami-Dade County."