



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

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Wifredo "Willy" Gort

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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

Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on November 10, 2021

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public held a Commission Meeting on November 10, 2021. The following actions took place:

Complaints Filed Against Town of Bay Harbor Islands Mayor Dismissed

C 21-24-09: A complaint filed against Town of Bay Harbor Islands Mayor, Joshua Fuller, was found to be Not Legally Sufficient and was dismissed. The complaint alleged that Mayor Fuller "possibly ignored" the Right to be Heard section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights when a Resolution was voted on in a meeting that was allegedly cancelled.

C 21-26-09: The Ethics Commission found No Legal Sufficiency on a second complaint alleging that Bay Harbor Islands Mayor, Joshua Fuller, violated the Truth in Government section of the Citizens' Bill of Rights. The complaint alleged that Mayor Fuller furnished false information to the public about a matter related to the participation of Bay Harbor Islands Council members in the Town Employees Group Health Insurance.

Proposed County Code Application Impacting Ethics Commission Presented

The Executive Director provided the Ethics Commission with a report regarding the "contract staff" provision in Airport Miscellaneous Construction Contract. This provision of the ethics code allows the Mayor, after consultation with the Ethics Commission, to designate members of County contractors as being covered by certain provisions of the ethics code. This provision of the ethics code has historically been unused by prior administrations.

Complaints Filed Against City of Miami Beach Mayor Dismissed

C 21-27-10 / C 21-28-10: Two identical complaints filed against City of Miami Beach Mayor, Dan Gelber, were found to be Not Legally Sufficient and were dismissed. The complaints alleged that Mayor Gelber violated the Prohibited Campaign Contributions by Real Estate Developers section of the City of Miami Beach Standards of Conduct Ordinance when he attended a virtual conference call meeting, also attended by the City Manager and several real estate developers and business owners in the City where former Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine conducted "political discussions".

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.