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## Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on April 14, 2021

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public held a Commission Meeting on April 14, 2021. The following actions took place:

### **Letter of Instruction Ratified in Case Involving Miami Beach Commissioner**

**C 21-03-01:** The Ethics Commission voted unanimously to ratify a Letter of Instruction for Miami Beach Commissioner Michael Gongora. The Commission previously found Probable Cause that Commissioner Gongora violated the Gifts and Disclosure section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance when an investigation uncovered that he failed to fully disclose free tickets/entry for his friends to accompany him as guests to the January 15, 2020 New Order concert at the Fillmore Theater in Miami Beach.

### **Former City of Coral Gables Commissioner Stipulates to Finding of Probable Cause**

**C 21-04-03:** Former City of Coral Gables Commissioner Pat Keon stipulated to a finding of Probable Cause and agreed to accept a Letter of Instruction for violating the Exploitation of Official Position section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. A COE investigation revealed that Ms. Keon, who at the time was a mayoral candidate for the City of Coral Gables, used her city email account to inquire from a constituent whether Ms. Keon's campaign could place a campaign sign in the constituent's yard.

### **Doctor at Medical Examiner's Office Stipulates to Probable Cause**

**C 21-07-04:** Forensic Pathologist Mark Shuman, a doctor at the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner's Office stipulated to a finding of Probable Cause and agreed to accept a Letter of Instruction and pay a \$500 fine for violating the Prohibition of Outside Employment section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. An investigation by the Office of the Inspector General revealed that during a five-year period, Dr. Shuman had been engaging in outside employment in several capacities and did not accurately disclose the amount of compensation he received from his outside employment for the years 2018 and 2019.

### **Defense Motions Dismissed and Hearing Date Set in Case Involving a Former Opa-Locka Mayor and Commissioner**

**C 19-05-02:** The Ethics Commission denied Motions to Dismiss and Suppress and set a hearing date for May 6 in a case involving former Opa-Locka Mayor and Commissioner John Riley. The COE previously determined there was Probable Cause that Mr. Riley violated the exploitation of official position and financial disclosure sections of the County Ethics Code by allegedly interfering with police officers responding to landlord tenant matter and failing to disclose his financial relationship with the building's owners.

### **Ethics Commission Declines to Issue Suggested Ethics Guidance to County Commissioner**

**RQO 2021-01:** The Ethics Commission declined to issue the staff suggested ethics guidance to County Commissioner Raquel Regalado regarding her private employment as a radio program host where the program invites local government employees and officials and addresses issues of local governance. The Commission directed staff to return with modified ethics guidance that included greater restrictions and also requested additional facts regarding the Commissioner's employment.

*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.*