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

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

Miami-Dade Home Rule Charter, Citizens' Bill of Rights, Right to be Heard provision was addressed in two agenda items and is the subject of lengthy discussion and presentations by counsel.

Ethics Commission discussed Gonzalez, et al. vs. City of Miami, a circuit court civil action seeking declaratory relief that references the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, Citizens' Bill of Rights, Right to be Heard provision.

Complaint Filed Against City of Miami Commissioners Dismissed

The Ethics Commission unanimously granted a Motion to Dismiss a complaint filed against all five City of Miami Commissioners. The complaint alleged that City of Miami Commissioners Alex Diaz De La Portilla, Joe Carollo, Manolo Reyes, Ken Russell, and Jeffrey Watson, violated the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, Citizens' Bill of Rights, by suppressing public comment at a November 19, 2020 City Commission meeting. Without comment on the actual advice, the Ethics Commission found that the City Commissioners reasonably relied on the advice given to them by the City Attorney regarding public comment.

Ratification of Letter of Instruction and Restitution Determination Continued in Case Involving Former Miami Beach Commissioner Michael Grieco

C 18-17-04: The Ethics Commission granted a request for a continuance by the defense until March 10, 2021 in a Motion to Ratify a Letter of Instruction and Determine Restitution amount in a case involving former City of Miami Beach Commissioner Michael Grieco. The Commission previously found that Mr. Grieco had violated the Home Rule Charter's Citizens' Bill of Rights entitled "Truth in Government."

Complaint Filed Against Former North Miami Beach Commission Candidate Dismissed

C 20-47-11: A complaint filed against then former North Miami Beach Commission Candidate Daniela Jean was found to be Not Legally Sufficient and was dismissed. The complaint alleged that Ms. Jean violated the County Ethics Code when she filed a "false and frivolous complaint."

Ethics Commission Passes an Ethics Recognition Awards Resolution

The Ethics Commission unanimously passed a resolution that will permit the Commission to publicly acknowledge by a special recognition award, those persons who by their actions have supported or contributed to the mission of the Ethics Commission.

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.

