

**COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

IN RE:

ETHICS COMPLAINT

ORLANDO MENDEZ

C 22-26-05

RESPONDENT.

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PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

The Advocate filed this Complaint against Respondent, Orlando Mendez, alleging that he violated Section 2-11.1(s) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance (hereinafter “Ethics Code”) entitled “Lobbying.”

Investigation showed that on July 16, 2021, while the procurement solicitation for RFP MCC 9-18 was still pending, the Respondent sent an e-mail to Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz. In the email, which he signed as principal of Ohana Construction Group, LLC (hereinafter “OCG”), he lobbied BCC Chairman Diaz regarding the pending MCC 9-18 procurement. His email noted that he was part of the small business community doing work for the airport’s MCC Program. He requested that the BCC address the pending MCC 9-18 contract. He wrote that it is important for the small business community “to get this resolved as soon as possible for the welfare of their families and the community.”

The Respondent in his sworn statement to this agency confirmed that he sent the subject email to BCC Chairman Diaz. He also admitted that he was not registered as a lobbyist at the time he sent the July 16, 2021, email encouraging the Chairman Diaz to take action on MCC 9-18 procurement solicitation.

On May 11, 2022, this matter was presented to the Commission for a probable cause determination. The Ethics Commission found probable cause; dismissed the Complaint pursuant to Code of Miami-Dade County, Article LXXVIII, §2-1074(s), as it appeared that the alleged violation was inadvertent, unintentional, or insubstantial; and ordered that a Letter of Instruction be issued to the Respondent.

Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Complaint C22-26-05 against Orlando Mendez, is hereby dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on this 11th day of May, 2022.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS
& PUBLIC TRUST

By:

DocuSigned by:
Judith Bernier
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Judith Bernier

Chair

Signed on : 5/18/2022