



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

#### COMMISSIONERS

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

**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

## Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on April 13, 2022

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public held a Commission Meeting on April 13, 2022. The following actions took place:

### **Complaint Filed Against Mayor of Sunny Isles Beach Found Not Legally Sufficient**

**C 22-11-02:** A complaint filed against Sunny Isles Beach Mayor Dana Goldman was found to be Not Legally Sufficient and was dismissed.

The complaint alleged that then Mayoral Candidate Goldman violated the Mandatory Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance when she allegedly published or caused to publish a flyer and email containing untrue statements.

The complaint, filed by a former candidate for Commission Seat, Greg Capra, also alleged that Ms. Goldman may have violated the Sunshine Law by standing alongside his opponent while campaigning. Furthermore, the complaint alleged that Ms. Goldman violated Florida Statute Section 104.31 by making false declarations to secure assistance in preparing a ballot.

### **C 22-12-02 Complaint Filed Against Mayor of Town of Bay Harbor Islands Dismissed**

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.

### **C 22-13-03 Complaint Filed Against North Miami Beach Commissioner Dismissed**

A complaint filed against North Miami Beach Commissioner Paule Villard was found to be Not Legally Sufficient and was dismissed.

The complaint alleged that Commissioner Villard violated the voting conflict section of the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Code when she allegedly voted on a “Living Wage” ordinance and on a modification of a tuition reimbursement policy which would benefit her daughter who is an intern with the City.

### **C 22-01-01 Complaint Filed Against North Miami Beach Commissioner Found Not Legally Sufficient**

A finding of No Legal Sufficiency was entered on a complaint filed against North Miami Beach Commissioner Paule Villard. The complaint alleged that Commissioner Villard violated the Truth in Government section of the Citizens’ Bill of Rights by using her former title of Vice Mayor during a city-sponsored event.

### **Policy Guidance Sought from the Ethics Commission Regarding Amendments to the County Procurement Cone of Silence**

The COE Executive Director briefed the Ethics Commission regarding proposed revisions to the County Cone of Silence section of the County Ethics Code. The proposed revisions would remove current limitations on communications regarding procurement matters by elected officials, County staff, bidders, and lobbyists and would maintain only those restricted

communications with procurement selection committee members. The Ethics Commission provided no policy direction at this point and instead requested to hear from someone from the County's procurement division and from the office of the Commissioner sponsoring the amendments.

### **Ethics Commission is Briefed Regarding Voting Conflicts for Elected Officials Arising from Traffic Mitigation**

The Ethics Commission received a briefing and reviewed a legal memorandum prepared by the Executive Director regarding voting conflicts for elected officials arising from traffic mitigation measures. The Commissioners were advised that the memorandum was shared with members of the municipal bar through the Miami-Dade County League of Cities. Further, that formal guidance from the Ethics Commission would be sought if the application of the voting conflict analysis described in the memorandum to an actual vote resulted in a dispute between the Commission's legal staff recommendation and the elected official seeking guidance.

*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.*