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Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on June 8, 2022

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust held a public meeting on June 8, 2022. The following actions took place:

Magnum Construction Management (MCM) Vice President Stipulates to Probable Cause Finding

C 22-25-05: Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Magnum Construction Management (MCM), Laura Munilla, stipulated to a finding of Probable Cause and entered into a settlement agreement for violating the Lobbying section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. Ms. Munilla will be issued a Letter of Instruction and will be required to pay a fine in the amount of \$500.

A COE investigation revealed that Ms. Munilla was not registered as a lobbyist when she sent an email to Commissioner Eileen Higgins in which she discussed issues regarding a solicitation or contract that required approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

Letter of Reprimand Ratified in Case Involving Opa-Locka Assistant City Manager

C 22-04-02: The Ethics Commission ratified a Letter of Reprimand for City of Opa-Locka Assistant City Manager George Ellis Jr. who previously stipulated to a finding of probable cause and entered into a settlement agreement for violating the Exploitation of Official Position section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.

Letters of Instruction Ratified in Cases Involving Small Business Owners

C 22-24-05, C 22-26-05, C 22-27-05: The Ethics Commission ratified Letters of Instruction for three small business owners. The COE previously found Probable Cause that these small business owners failed to register as lobbyists, a violation of the Lobbying section of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.

Ethics Commission Briefed on Amendments to the County Ethics Code

COE Executive Director Jose Arrojo briefed the Ethics Commission on amendments to the County Ethics Code revising the definition of "immediate family" to include siblings of the covered person and revising the ability of County employees to solicit gifts for the County to require authorization by the County Commissioners, the Mayor, the Mayor's Chiefs, or Department heads.

Complaints Filed Against City of Opa-Locka Mayor and Commissioners Found Not Legally Sufficient

C 22-17-04, C 22-18-04, C 22-19-04: Complaints filed against City of Opa-Locka Mayor Veronica Williams, Commissioner Chris Davis, and Sherelean Bass were found to be Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed.

The first complaint alleged that Mayor Williams exploited her official position and was unprofessional when she interfered with a landlord-tenant dispute involving the Mayor's sister.

The second complaint alleged that Commissioner Davis acted in a disrespectful and unprofessional manner towards the citizens of Opa-Locka.

The third complaint alleged that Commissioner Bass misused her authority by asking the City Manager to get a city official to pressure clean a school and also by visiting the Mayor's house before every Commission meeting in violation of the Sunshine Law.

All three complaints were filed by the same City of Opa-Locka citizen.

Complaints Filed by Former Opa-Locka City Manager Against Vice Mayor and Commissioner Found Not Legally Sufficient

C 22-20-04, C 22-21-04: Complaints filed by former Opa-Locka City Manager John Pate against Opa-Locka Vice Mayor John Taylor and Commissioner Sherelean Bass were found to be Not Legally Sufficient and dismissed.

The first complaint alleged that Vice Mayor Taylor exploited his official position by scheduling a commission meeting to fire Mr. Pate because Pate did not "condone and/or cover up the misconduct of the Respondent Vice Mayor's brother."

The second complaint alleged that Commissioner Bass exploited her official position by voting against reinstating the previously fired City Manager (Pate) for Pate's refusal to allocate Opa-Locka funding toward a project involving land "deeded to Darwin Williams."

Complaint Filed Against Town of Bay Harbor Islands Councilmember Found Not Legally Sufficient

C 22-22-05: A complaint filed against Town of Bay Harbor Island Councilmember Isaac Salver was found to be Not Legally Sufficient and was dismissed.

The complaint alleged that Councilmember Salver violated the Truth in Government provision of the Citizens' Bill of Rights when he made "injurious" and "harmful" statements directed at a Bay Harbor Islands citizen.