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Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on January 19, 2022

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public held a Commission Meeting on January 19, 2022. The following actions took place:

New Ethics Commission Chair and Vice Chair Selected

The Ethics Commission voted unanimously to select Dr. Judith Bernier as its new Chairperson replacing Nelson C. Bellido who will continue to serve on the board as a Commissioner. Dr. Bernier previously served as the Commission’s Vice-Chair and has served on the board since her appointment in 2014. Dr. Bernier is the Director of the Florida International University Center for Labor Research & Studies.

The Commission also voted unanimously to select Wifredo “Willy” Gort as its new Vice- Chair. Mr. Gort, formerly a long-serving elected official in the City of Miami, previously served on the board as a Commissioner since being appointed by the Miami-Dade League of Cities in December 2019.

Ethics Commission Adopts Resolution to Amend Ethics Code

The Ethics Commission considered and adopted a resolution to be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners recommending that the County Ethics Code be amended to include “siblings” in the definition of immediate family members.

Ethics Commission is Briefed on Revisions to the Ethics Code’s Gift Section

The Ethics Commission was briefed on proposed revisions to the Ethics Code’s Gift section and limitations on County and municipal employees’ ability to solicit gifts on behalf of local governments in the performance of their official duties. The proposal is pending before the Board of County Commissioners.

Complaint Filed Against City of Miami Commissioner Dismissed

C 21-29-11: A complaint filed against City of Miami Commissioner Alex Diaz de la Portilla, was found to be Not Legally Sufficient and was dismissed. The complainant, a former City of Miami Code Compliance Officer, alleged that she was wrongfully terminated from employment with the City. The City of Miami has not adopted an employee protection ordinance enforceable by the Ethics Commission.

Complaint Filed Against Sunny Isles Beach Mayor Withdrawn

C 21-30-11: A complaint filed against Sunny Isles Beach Mayor, Dana Goldman, was withdrawn at the request of the complainant. The complaint alleged that then mayoral candidate Goldman violated the Fair Campaign Practices provision of the County’s Ethics Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance while running for office.