



For Immediate Release: March 14, 2012

Contact: Joseph Centorino, Executive Director
(305) 350-0613 or centori@miamidade.gov

Regalados settle campaign finance charges

Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado and his daughter, Miami-Dade School Board Member Raquel Regalado, have agreed to settle charges of inaccurate campaign finance reporting associated with the 2009 Miami mayoral race following a joint investigation conducted by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

As part of the agreement, Tomas Regalado, as candidate, and Raquel Regalado, as campaign treasurer, admit to violating Chapter 106 of Florida Statutes by filing inaccurate campaign finance reports on February 10, 2010, and on March 15, 2010. Each will pay a fine of \$1,000 for each violation (\$2,000 per person) to the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund of the State of Florida. Additionally, they will reimburse investigative costs of \$1,000 each to the Ethics Commission, State Attorney's Office and Florida Department of Law Enforcement, for a total financial penalty of \$10,000.

"This has been looked at by several agencies, including our auditor and we concluded that there were serious deficiencies when it came to accounting for contributions in the final report," said Ethics Commission Executive Director Joseph Centorino. "However, we found no evidence of theft of funds and this is the appropriate means of settling that type of offense." Centorino added, "It is important for all parties to realize that in any campaign, the candidate and the treasurer are ultimately responsible for the financial reports."

The negotiated settlement will be presented to the Florida Elections Commission for final approval at its next meeting in May.

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 education and outreach, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.

###

Note: Copies of the complaint and stipulated agreement are available upon request. The close out memo can be obtained from the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.