

**OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

#K11-014

Date Opened: 01/25/11

Date Closed: 03/07/11

Investigator: Sylvia Batista and Karl Ross

A story appeared in The Miami Herald regarding a television show “trailer” produced for the purpose of marketing it to the networks for a television series. The TV series would chronicle the challenges faced by the City of Miami Police Department’s elite task forces. Pursuant to the article, Jorge Moreno, owner of Beach Pictures, LLC, and his friend, Tommy Regalado, the Mayor’s son, discussed the idea of the television series about one year ago. Tommy Regalado is reported to have introduced his friend to the top brass of the City of Miami Police Department, most notably Chief Miguel Exposito, in order to propose the idea. The trailer was produced by Beach Pictures LLC (Beach) with the full cooperation of the City of Miami Police Department, and was ready to be sold to the networks by October 2010. On January 25, 2011 the COE opened an inquiry concerning issues related to a possible violation of the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance Section 2-11.1(c) *Prohibition on transacting business within the County* (or City). There was concern that the mayor’s son may have been improperly contracting with the City.

Investigation:

The COE made a public record request from the City of Miami asking for copies of all e-mails to and from Chief Miguel Exposito, Tommy Regalado and Jorge Moreno in reference to the production of the trailer for “*Miami’s Finest SOS*”. The COE also requested a copy of the Letter of Interest signed by Chief Exposito, Jorge Moreno and former City Manager Carlos Migoya.

The following is a chronology of events as reflected by e-mails provided by the City of Miami:

DATE	FROM	TO	DESCRIPTION
4/12/10	Moreno/Beach Pictures (“Moreno”)	Chief, Vega, Seiglie, & Martinez	Beach has gone on a few ride alongs; will pre-produce next week’s shoot schedule.
4/13/10	Chief	Moreno	It has been a pleasure; we are happy to work with Beach on this project.
5/11/10	Moreno/Beach Pictures	Mayor Seiglie	Inquiry re. Officer Sabine Raymonvil to add to show
5/11/10	Seiglie	Moreno	Not a problem
5/11/10	Chief	Moreno	Haven’t heard from you; how is project going?
5/11/10	Moreno	Chief	Been communicating with Seiglie; gives an update on project to the Chief.
5/11/10	Chief	Moreno	Good to hear things are going well.
5/11/10	Moreno	Robert Laurenceau	Requesting permission to ride along with Officer Raymonvil.
5/11/10	Tommy Regalado	Chief	Due to conflict, must step away from this project; Moreno and others will be in touch.
5/11/10	Chief	Tommy Regalado	I understand completely; good to hear from you.

5/18/10	Delrish Moss	Chief	Has Beach received clearance from Public Info Office to ride with and interview officers? Cannot find signed documents to protect City from liability.
5/25/10	Moreno	Chief & Seiglie	Are in editing process. Need recent helicopter footage of Miami for the introduction. Need better quality footage than what's on youtube.
5/25/10	Moreno	Harry Gottlieb, City's Cultural Administrator	Re. Miami archival footage to be used for series.
6/14/10	Moreno	Chief & Seiglie	Will resume editing after 7/4/10; should have something to show by 7/15/10
6/14/10	Chief	Moreno	Thanks for update.
9/17/10	Moreno	Seiglie	Will be done with edit soon; would like to schedule a date to show trailer.
9/17/10	Seiglie	Moreno	Thursday or Friday is good.
9/17/10	Moreno	Seiglie	Friday at 2:00 pm.
9/24/10	Moreno	Seiglie	Forwarding weblink to view trailer.
9/25/10	Seiglie	Moreno	Can you change name to Tactical Operation Section?
9/25/10	Chief	Seiglie	Why SOS and not TOS; I was more concerned about the "hunting" comment of mine.
9/25/10	Moreno	Seiglie	Can change from SOS to TOS, but SOS is recommended.
9/25/10	Seiglie	Moreno	Understand; you know what sells.
9/25/10	Moreno	Seiglie	Thanks. Will display TOS in credits.
9/25/10	Seiglie	Moreno	Okay.

9/29/10	Moreno	Chief & Seiglie	Weblink to updated edit; requesting to schedule viewing party for next Thursday at 8:00 pm.
9/29/10	Seiglie	Moreno	Sounds good.
9/29/10	Chief	Moreno	Trailer looks great; thanks for taking care of edit we spoke about. When is viewing party.
9/30/10	Moreno	Chief	Viewing party scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 7 th at 8 pm; requests deal memo as formality to making the show.
9/30/10	Chief	Moreno	No problem; our legal advisor will review it.
9/30/10	Moreno	Chief, Seiglie, etc.	Attaching invitation for screening of "Miami Finest" on 10/7/10.
10/6/10	Moreno	Gottlieb	Inviting to attend screening of show.
10/6/10	Gottlieb	Moreno	Thanks for invite, but have previous engagement.
10/7/10	Moreno	Chief	Bring signed form needed before shopping show to networks. Hope to see you tonight. Attachment: unsigned letter of interest.
10/12/10	Alfredo Vega	George Wysong	Reach out to Moreno re. letter of interest
10/18/10	Wysong	Moreno; cc: A. Vega	Please call re. letter of interest.
12/8/10	A. Baschuk	Moreno; cc: Chief, Seiglie, and T. Regalado	Have gone through first round of network meetings in NY; met with much interest; networks & cable outlets want to make offer on series; strategy to spur interest by competing networks. Attachment: Miami's Finest Press Release.
12/11/10	Chief	Alfredo Vega	Please review press release; one area needs to be rewritten.

12/11/10	A. Vega	Chief	Based on issue in grove and media criticism re. aggressive officers, should change statement, "my aggressive team of predators" as this would add fuel to fire.
12/12/10	Chief	A. Vega	That is the change; please think of alternative statement.
12/12/10	A. Vega	Chief	Suggests three alternative statements.
12/12/10	Chief	A. Vega	Likes #3; lets show to Liz so we can respond in time.
12/12/10	A. Vega	Chief	Good choice!
12/15/10	Chief	Moreno	You might want to change one of my quotes to attached press release.
12/15/10	Moreno	Chief	Press release not needed since we have deal w/TLC; will change release when deal is signed. Sign a new LOI.
12/15/10	Chief	Moreno	We are on top of it Jorge.
12/17/10	Moreno	Chief, Seiglie, Vega; cc: T. Regalado, Nathan & Beach	We have closed the deal with TLC; have negotiated an equipment fund that will provide dept. with needed items.
12/21/10	Moreno	Chief, Vega, Jason & T. Regalado	Introduction of production mgr. Jason Hervey; will be in town soon to meet officers.
12/21/10	J. Hervey	Moreno, Chief, Vega, Tomas Regalado	Excited to make 8 episodes showcasing Miami and Miami police officers.
12/21/10	Chief	Moreno	Thanks for update.
01/26/11	Scott Hervey	Santangelo, Morales, J. Hervey, Wendy Bernier	Attached is proposed access agreement for Miami PD. Need to fast track execution of agreement. Fee section in

			blank—still in flux.
01/27/11	Santangelo	Tony Crapp, Jr.	Forwarding copy of access agreement; advise how to proceed.
01/28/11	Scott Hervey	Santangelo, Crapp	Requesting City's comments to draft by COB; time is of essence.
01/28/11	Crapp	Julie Bru	Not communicating with company's counsel; Wysong worked on this issue.
01/28/11	Wysong	Crapp; cc: Chief & Julie Bru	Chief confirmed that he is <u>not</u> interest in the Miami's Finest TV program. Advise if you wish to discuss.
01/28/11	Crapp	Wysong; cc: Chief & Bru	Understand Chief's position; predated tenure as manager; not interested in having discussions with the parties.

2/28/11 – Jorge Moreno, Beach Pictures, Inc.

On 2/28/11 Moreno rendered a verbal statement at the offices of the COE. Moreno's statement focused on the events leading up to the production, viewing and initial marketing of the trailer.

Moreno explained that Beach was formed about three years ago when he partnered with Adrian Baschuk and Nathan Lieberman. Moreno advised that Beach has been doing very well and has become the "go to" company in Miami for film production.

Moreno explained that he and Tommy Regalado have been friends for a long time, and both are in the TV business (Regalado works for TV Marti). Moreno explained that he and Tommy Regalado have talked about different projects for television including this project which they agreed was a great idea.

Moreno advised that he asked Tommy Regalado how he could meet the Chief. Moreno stated that Tommy Regalado arranged to have a breakfast meeting at Versailles Restaurant. The meeting took place in January or February of 2010. In attendance at the meeting were Moreno, Tommy Regalado, Chief Exposito, Alfredo Vega, and Major Jose Seiglie, Moreno said there was someone else at the meeting but he does not remember who it was. The mayor was not there. Moreno explained that at the meeting he proposed to produce the trailer on the topic of grow houses, which was a hot topic at the time. Moreno stated that Chief Exposito thought it would be boring and suggested to base the show on the Tactical Operation Section (“TOS”), which is a unit of “super cops.” Moreno informed that he was riding with the TOS police two weeks later with the full cooperation and assistance of Major Seiglie, the head of TOS. Moreno said that he signed all the necessary documentation related to liability issues. Moreno advised that he, and his partners, Adrian Baschuk and Nathan Lieberman, and cameraman/director Stian Roenning rode along with the TOS officers filming the trailer for about one month. Moreno stated that Tommy Regalado did not ride along with them and was not involved at any level in the production or marketing of the trailer. Moreno added that the only thing Tommy Regalado did was introduce him to Chief Exposito.

Moreno advised that the City has not paid any money to Beach or provided any equipment for the production of the trailer. Furthermore, the City stands to make money if any of the networks or cable outlets buy the trailer. Moreno explained that they made the trailer to show the network the gist of what the show would be like. Moreno advised that by the end of November they had showed the trailer to TLC and A&E. TLC wanted to develop a season of the show.

Moreno advised that they held a viewing party for the officers on 10/7/10 at the Catalina Hotel/Kung Fu Restaurant Lounge. Moreno advised that they made two versions of the trailer, one for the networks and one for the viewing party. Moreno stressed that everyone loved it, including the Chief. Moreno advised that Tommy Regalado did not attend the viewing party. Moreno explained that he listed Tommy Regalado's name in the credits on the viewing party cut of the trailer as a gesture of gratitude, but regrets doing it.

Moreno explained that someone leaked the trailer to Commissioner Dunn and it got to the press. Since then, the Chief has said that the trailer was manipulated. Moreno said that this is the Chief's project and now he wants to kill it because he got bad press from it. Moreno stated that he was told by Alfredo Vega to get the trailer from Commissioner Dunn or else they will not let him have a show. Moreno said getting the trailer from Commissioner Dunn was impossible to do at that point.

Conclusion:

There was no evidence that Tommy Regalado contracted with the City or profited from the endeavor. No violation of the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance was identified. For that reason, no further action will be taken by the COE on this matter.