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## Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

# Memo

**To:** Mike Murawski, Robert Meyers  
**From:** Karl Ross  
**Date:** February 25, 2016  
**Re:** K05-24, ROGELIO MIRANDA

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### CLOSE OUT

I spoke today with Dr. Jose Garcia, owner of the American Extended Care assisted living facility at 11255 SW 211<sup>th</sup> Street, who agreed that further inquiry into the above case was not warranted at this time. In March, Dr. Garcia asked us to investigate possible misconduct leading to a Feb. 18 fire-safety inspection that cited his facility for 16 violations. Dr. Garcia now acknowledges that most, if not all, of the violations are legitimate and is working with the county Fire Marshall to achieve compliance. His initial suspicions of misconduct regarding Miami firefighter Rogelio "Roger" Miranda do not appear to have any basis. Firefighter Miranda is the son of a former business associate, whom Dr. Garcia feared may have been using her son's influence to bring about an unduly harsh inspection. The investigation indicates that the chain of events leading up to the inspection of the ALF are not related to Dr. Garcia's falling out with Miranda's mother. The inspection was prompted by a Feb. 14 visit to the ALF by county firefighters responding to a request for emergency medical assistance. Firefighters who responded to that call voiced concerns about the facility's fire-safety, prompting the county's fire marshall, Chief Manny Mena, to order a surprise inspection. That inspection was carried out by Inspector Michael Marchi, who, as evidenced by his most recent performance evaluation, has a reputation for being thorough to the point that some building owners have complained about the cost of complying with his findings. Marchi, in a statement this week, defended his

findings and satisfied this investigator that his actions were not unduly influenced by outside interests. (See interview notes.) Dr. Garcia has accepted these findings, and expressed that he feels he has been treated fairly in his subsequent dealings with the county's Fire Prevention Division. The matter should be closed with no adverse finding against Miami Firefighter Miranda or Inspector Marchi. To the contrary, all available information suggests both are exemplary public servants.