

City of Miami Group 2 Special Election
Candidate Placido Diaz

Case Number: K06-121

Re: On October 23, 2006, what appeared to be a decommissioned City of Miami Fire Truck was parked on private property located at north-east corner of the intersection of Grand Avenue and Hibiscus Street in the Coconut Grove District of the City of Miami. The truck had a number of signs on it endorsing the candidacy of Group 2 Candidate Placido Diaz. The private property is located in Miami District 2.

An investigation was initiated to determine if the use of the decommissioned fire truck is a violation of the **Declaration For Candidates Not Automatically Covered By The Miami-Dade Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance # 11**: *I will not use or permit the use of campaign material that falsifies, distorts or misrepresents facts.*

Investigation:

COE Investigators contacted Firefighter Robert Suarez, President of the Miami Association of Fire Fighters IAFF Local 587. Firefighter Suarez advised that he was aware of the Candidate Diaz' use of the fire truck. He advised that he has received negative comments from a number of Miami Firefighters. They felt that the use of the fire truck gives Miami voters that that Candidate Diaz has the endorsement of the Miami Firefighters. Firefighter Suarez advised that the Miami Association of Fire Firefighters voted to support Candidate Marc Sarnoff in the Special Election. Firefighter Suarez added that individuals have reported a second fire truck with similar campaign material parked at various locations in the NE section of the City of Miami.

On October 25, 2006, Firefighter Suarez contacted Investigators and advised that a fire truck, again similarly decorated with campaign Diaz campaign materials, was parked at the intersection of US Highway #1 and SW 27th Ave. Firefighter Suarez noted that Candidate Diaz with supporters was standing next to the truck waiving at passersby's.

Firefighter Suarez advised that he would contact this Investigator if he wished to file a formal complaint alleging that Candidate Diaz' improperly used the fire truck as an endorsement.

Firefighter Suarez never contacted this investigator.

Mr. Placido Diaz, Candidate Group 2 City of Miami

Mr. Diaz was contacted by COE Investigators. In a telephone interview, Mr. Diaz acknowledged the use of the fire truck in his campaign. He advised that the truck was borrowed from a friend of his, who owned the truck. He moved and parked the truck at several locations within District 3 to get the attention of those passing by. He reported the loan of the truck in his Campaign Treasurer's Report, Contributions as an in-kind contribution. He advised that he was careful to insure that the fire truck had no identifying markings on it. Mr. Diaz advised Investigators that during a candidate's forum, in Coconut Grove, held on November 17, 2006, acknowledged to those attending that he did not have the endorsement of the Miami Fire Department.

Name & Signature:	Manuel W. Diaz, Investigator	Date: Item #:
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