

Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

Memo

To: File

From: Michael Murawski, Advocate
Kennedy Rosario, Investigator

Date: March 7, 2007

Re: K06-035 Close-Out Memo

The allegations that initiated this investigative probe suggested that Ms. Carmen Spelorzi, acting in her capacity as Village of Biscayne Park Clerk, exploited her position by making personal purchases on a Village credit card. Also, alleged was that a retirement party, funded by the Village, for the out going Village Chief of Police was improper.

After an exhaustive audit, document review, meetings and interviews this investigation has illustrated that Ms. Carmen Spelorzi, now the former Village of Biscayne Park Clerk, did not utilize Village funds to pay for personal purchases she initiated.

It was also determined that the credit card, although initially obtained and utilized for Village purposes, had been issued by Capital One under Ms. Spelorzi' credit rating.

However, it is also clear that Ms. Spelorzi, acting on her own volition exceeded the scope of the intended usage of the Capital One credit card.

As to the retirement party for the out going Police Chief, it has been determined that the Mayor authorized the affair under his discretionary authority. The attendees included Village elected officials as well as staff and employees, only one "civilian" was invited as a guest of the out going Police Chief. Although the Capital One credit card was presented as payment for this luncheon, documentation was duly filed in the Village archives.

It is recommended:

1. The investigation be closed, no further action is deemed necessary.
2. A memo be issued to the Village underscoring the possible misuse of government funds by Village personnel given the lack of proper checks and balances, oversight, and internal controls uncovered by this investigation.