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Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics And Public Trust

Memo

To: Mike Murawski, ethics advocate
From: Breno Penichet, ethics investigator
Date: Feb. 5, 2008
Re: K08-001 Metro-Dade Parks Dept/ Houlover.

Background: This Investigation was predicated on information received from an Anonymous caller to the COE hot line on December 27, 2007 alleging that he tried to buy a parking pass at Houlover Park and was charged more than the usual fee. The unknown caller also stated that he was a construction worker and he felt the staff and particularly Park supervisor "Jose Pars" was keeping the money.

Findings: COE Investigators A. Skinner and B. Penichet responded to Houlover Park and contacted supervisor Jose Ponce. Mr. Ponce was advised of the allegations and was asked if he was aware of the circumstances. Mr. Ponce advised that he had recently been transferred back to the Park as a supervisor and told to make sure the parking situation is taken care of. In the past the parking fees were not charged properly, also now there are more construction personnel in the area and there is more congestion in the parking. Mr. Ponce advised that there is also construction taking place and that also aggravates the situation, Mr. Ponce provided a fee book for our review that specifically set forth the annual fees, also Mr. Ponce has implemented several new policies that insure that the persons purchasing the permits are the ones using them.

Mr. Ponce advised that he personally does spot audits to insure the integrity of the system. Also customers are spot checked to make sure the proper person is using the decal. In the near future the decals will be automated and tracked via computer this will eliminate any doubts as to the accuracy of the system.

Conclusion: Accordingly, it is recommended that the above-cited be closed. It does not appear that any Ordinance within our jurisdiction has been violated.