

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

K #: 09-101 Claudia Miro

Date Opened: 08/18/2009

Date Closed: 10/05/2009

Name of investigator: Arthur D. Skinner  
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**Allegation:**

This matter was predicated upon the receipt of information from the Miami Dade County State Attorney Office. The complainant Mr. Sebastian Martinez alleged that the Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the City of Miami City Manager Office Claudia Miro had exploited her official position by using the City of Miami e-mail system to falsely report the Mr. Martinez had kidnapped his children.

Section 2-11.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, the County's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. (g) *Exploitation of official position prohibited.* No person included in the terms defined in Subsections (b)(1) through (6) shall use or attempt to use his official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or others except as may be specifically permitted by other ordinances and resolutions previously ordained or adopted or hereafter to be ordained or adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. (k) *Prohibition on outside employment.* (1) No person included in the terms defined in Subsections (b)(5) [departmental personnel] and (6) [employees] shall receive any compensation for his or her services as an officer or employee of the County, from any source other than the County except as may be permitted by Section 2-11 of this Code of Ordinances. (2) All full-time County and municipal employees engaged in any outside employment for any person, firm, corporation or entity other than Miami-Dade County, or the respective municipality, or any of their agencies or instrumentalities, shall file, under oath, an annual report indicating the source of the

outside employment, the nature of the work being done pursuant to same and any amount or types of money or other consideration received by the employee from said outside employment. Said County employee's reports shall be filed with the supervisor of elections no later than 12:00 noon on July 1st of each year, including the July 1st following the last year that person held such employment. Municipal employee reports shall be filed with the clerk of their respective municipalities. Said reports shall be available at a reasonable time and place for inspection by the public. The County Manager or any city manager may require monthly reports from individual employees or groups of employees for good cause.

**Investigation:**

On August 18, 2009, the Complainant Mr. Sebastian Martinez was interviewed by telephone. Mr. Martinez stated that Friday, July 27 2009, Ms. Miro had sent an E-mail to City of Miami Deputy Chief of Police Frank Fernandez falsely accusing Mr. Martinez of abducting his children from his ex-wife, Ms. Madelyne Virani. Mr. Martinez claimed that this was part of a pattern of behavior by Ms. Miro to intimidate and harass him. Mr. Martinez stated that Ms. Miro assisted his ex-wife Madelyne Virani in filing false accusations of child abduction against him using City Manager's office and City of Miami Police Department resources. Mr. Martinez said that this was not the first time that Ms. Miro has used her position with the City Manager's office to influence decisions made by police officers. Ms. Miro allegedly falsely accused Mr. Martinez of domestic violence in October 2007. Mr. Martinez stated that the result of that arrest was his using pretrial intervention services.

Mr. Martinez claimed that Ms. Miro has continuously misused her public office. In 2004, Ms. Miro provided party planning services to Florida State Representative Julio Robaina using her private corporation, Winning Edge Consultants. Ms. Miro worked for Florida State Representative Julio Robaina from November 2002 through February 2005 as Chief of Staff. Mr. Martinez alleged that Ms. Miro steered catering contracts to

her close friend Suzanne Chavez owner of Suzanne Michael Catering. Ms. Miro now has a new Corporation listed on Sunbiz.com Southeast International Export. (This is an active Corporation formed in December 2008

On September 9, 2009, I interviewed Chief of Operations for the City Manager Bill Anida (306) 416-1027 by telephone. Mr. Anido gave the following information: Miro was fired as part of a budget related staff reduction; Mr. Anido said that he was aware of the E-mail to Deputy Police Chief Frank Fernandez. Anido stated that , himself, Hector Mirable (Director Employee Relations) and the City Manager Pete Hernandez did a short investigation into the matter, and decided that they didn't see anything wrong with Miro taking a telephone complaint from a City of Miami resident and forwarding it to the Police Department. They didn't think she exploited her official position because she did not mention that she was an assistant to the City Manager in her communication with Fernandez. Anido said that Miro did not mention in the E-mail that she had a child by the complainant Sebastian Martinez, and was acquainted with Martinez' ex-wife Madelyne Virani. Anido said he counseled Miro about the matter.

On September 29, 2009, COE Investigators reviewed Ms. Miro's City of Miami personnel file. Ms. Miro was let go on September 11, 2009, and in no longer an employee of the city of Miami.

**CONCLUSION:**

Because Ms. Miro is no longer employed as Assistant to the Chief of Staff, this matter is closed per the Advocate Michael Murawski.