

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

K #:09-025 Judy Waldman

Date Opened: 03/31/2009

Date Closed: 04/28/2009

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

This investigation was predicated upon the receipt of information from a Homestead, Florida resident that Councilwoman Judy Waldman was allowed to publish a news article in the South Dade News Leader at no cost.

Section 2-11.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, the County's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. (e) Gifts: (4) *Disclosure*. Any person included in the term defined in Subsection (b)(1) through (6) shall disclose as provided herein any gift, or series of gifts from any one person or entity, having a value in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Said disclosure shall be made by filing a copy of the disclosure form required by Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, for "local officers" with the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners simultaneously with the filing of the form with the Secretary of State.

**Investigation:**

On April 16, 2009, Councilwoman Judy Waldman was interviewed by telephone. Ms. Waldman stated that news article written by her and published on January 11, 2009, in the South Dade News Leader space given to her by the newspaper editor Mike Dill. Waldman stated that this was a practice allowed by Dill and the South Dade News Leader for all members of the city Council.

On April 28, 2009, the South Dade News Leader Editor Mike Dill was interviewed by telephone. Dill stated that it was his policy to allow elected officials of the City of

Homestead to publish articles in his newspaper similar Waldman's article of January 11, 2009. Dill mentioned that Councilman Melvin McCormack wrote an article similar Waldman's making the same type of requests of his constituents and detailing what he had done for his district. Dill stated that if he was to charge for Waldman's article it would cost approximately \$75.00.

**CONCLUSION:**

There does not appear to be a violation of the Miami-Dade County, the County's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. The value of the article if it was to be considered a gift is under \$100.00.