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Miami-Dade County
Commission on Ethics
and Public Trust

Memo

To: File

From: Karl Ross, ethics investigator

Date: May 11, 2010

Re: Starex Smith, Opa-locka parks director

Close-out recommended: The above-captioned case was opened pursuant to a tip from a city of Opa-locka parks employee, who alleged the city's parks director was abusing his credit card privileges. The informant cited late-night expenditures, including visits to local movie theaters and meals. COE requested copies of Mr. Smith's credit card statements dating back to July 1, 2009, and reviewed said statements along with supporting documents. The review showed that nearly all of the transactions were supported with receipts and that they appeared to be consistent with official activities intended to help at-risk teens. City Manager Clarence Patterson was also consulted during the inquiry. He advised that he had reviewed the statements in question and told investigators the expenditures were authorized.

Accordingly, the case should be closed without further inquiry.