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## Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

# Memo

**To:** Michael P. Murawski, Advocate  
**From:** Manuel W. Diaz  
**Date:** January 24, 2012  
**Re:** Study of Community Council 11/ Members vs. Campaign Contributions K11-004

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The assignment was given,

To review the Campaign Treasurer Reports (CTRs) for the members of Community Council Zoning Appeals Board 11 (CCZAB11) to determine if any of campaign contributors listed on the CTRs may have some interest, (either direct or indirect) in Zoning applications considered the members of the CCZAB.

Methodology,

1. The study group consists of the elected members of CCZAB 11 for the years 2008 and 2010.
2. Each CCZAB member's CTRs was reviewed. During the review, it was noted that many of the candidates self-funded their campaigns. Those CCZAB members who self-funded their campaigns were not considered.
3. Source of contribution.

- a. If a contribution was made by a firm, the name of the firm was listed.
  - b. If the contribution was made by an individual, research was done to determine if the individual or some entity represented by the individual had a zoning application before the CCZAB.
  - c. Donations not related to a. or b. were not considered.
4. 90 zoning applications between 2007 and 2011 were reviewed.
  5. Community Council Members considered in the study were Beatriz Suarez and Patricia Gordon Davis.

#### **Beatriz Suarez Contributions**

Granada Plaza	\$ 500.00
Holland and Knight	\$ 550.00
Blizen	\$ 450.00
Bercow	\$ 500.00
Master Development	\$ 500.00

- **Granada Shopping Plaza Inc.** (Granada) is located in Coral Gables, FL. Active officers include Manuel A. Herran, Ezequiel Herran, Jose A. Herran, Daniel R. Valdes and Armando J. Guerra. Granada. The Law Offices of Machado & Herran, P.A. serves as the registered agent for this organization. The Herran's are also principals in a number of corporations including Sedano's Markets. Granada Shopping Plaza donated \$500.00 to the Suarez campaign.
- **Holland and Knight, LLP** (Holland), located at 701 Brickell, Miami, Florida 33130, is a law firm. Members of the firm Juan Mayor Jr., attorney, donated

(\$250.00), Joseph G. Goldstein, attorney, donated (\$250.00), and Brian McDowell, attorney (\$50.00) donated to the Suarez campaign.

- **Blizen Sumberg Baena Price and Axelrod LLP** (Blizen), located at 1450 Brickell Ave, Miami, Florida. Stanley B. Price, attorney donated \$200.00, Jerry Proctor, attorney donated \$50.00, Vicky Toledo, attorney donated \$50.00, Carey Stiss, attorney donated \$ 50.00, Eileen Mehta attorney \$ 50.00, and Brian S. Adler, attorney donated \$50.00 to the Suarez campaign.
- **The Law Office of Bercow Radell and Fernandez LLP** (Bercow), located at 200 S. Biscayne Blvd, Miami donated \$500.00 to the Suarez campaign.
- **Master Development Inc** (MASDEV) a commercial real estate developer located in Hallandale Beach, FL donated \$500.00 to the Suarez campaign. One of the active officers in the corporation is Robert L. Shapiro.

The review of the Zoning Applications and the Resolutions contained in within the documents indicate that,

- Bercow had eight (8) applications before the CC. Suarez voted in favor of seven (7). She was absent for one (1) of the applications.

Note: Three (3) of the applications considered WMD London Sq., WMD Sunset, LLC. and WMD West Sunset were are owned or managed by MASDEV. MASDEV interests were represented by attorney Penn, a Bercow associate.

- Blizen had 2 applications before the CC. Suarez voted in favor of the two (2) applications.

- Holland had ten (10) applications before the CC. Suarez voted in favor of seven (7) of the applications, against one (1) application there are still two application pending. Note: One application is related to Sedano stores (Grand Shopping Plaza )

### **Patricia Gordon Davis**

Holland and Knight	\$ 750.00
Bercow	\$ 1000.00
Thirteen Towers LLC	\$ 250.00
Liliana Estefan	\$ 250.00

- **Holland and Knight, LLP** (Holland), is a law firm. Holland attorneys Juan Mayor Jr., Joseph G. Goldstein, each donated \$250.00, and the firm Holland donated \$250.00 to the Davis campaign.
- **Bercow Radell & Fernandez** (Bercow) donated \$500.00 to the Davis campaign. Jeffrey Bercow, attorney donated \$500.00 to the Davis campaign.
- **Thirteen Towers LLC.** (Thirteen) donated \$250.00 to the Davis campaign. The director is Rolando Delgado. Delgado also owns Southern Homes, a Miami based home builder.

The review of the Zoning Applications and the Resolutions contained in within the documents indicate that,

- Holland had ten (10) applications before the CC. Davis voted in favor of seven (7) of the applications and against one (1) application, there are still three (3) applications pending.
- Bercow had eight (8) applications before the CC. Davis voted in favor of

seven

(5) of the applications. She was absent for one (1) applications. Two are pending.

- There no applications related to Thirteen Tower's LLC. or owner Delgado.
- There were no applications related to Liliana Estefan.