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Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

Memo

To: Michael Murawski, independent ethics advocate
From: Karl Ross, ethics investigator
Date: March 2, 2011
Re: K11-016 SECURE TRAINING LLC

Recommended close-out: As discussed, the facts of the case do not appear to be in dispute, according to a Jan. 31, 2011, story published by the Miami Herald and detailing the activities of Secure Training LLC. As reported by the Herald, the son of Assistant Police Chief Richard Blom prepared a training video for the department, which is now “featured prominently” on the department’s official Website (<http://mpd.securetraining.com/>). The story clearly states that departmental personnel and resources were used to create the video. However, Assistant Chief Blom states that his son, Aaron, doesn’t intend to make any money from the venture, at least as it pertains to any dealings with the City of Miami. The story notes that the Website for Secure Training features a Miami city seal and a message from Police Chief Miguel Exposito and that it was “put up through the police department’s computer server, though the pages are copyrighted to Secure Training of Palmetto Bay.” Corporate records show that Aaron Blom, of 7875 SW 141 Terrace, is the manager and sole officer for Secure Training LLC. The assistant chief’s remarks in the Herald leave open the possibility that his son could market the training video and others to other law enforcement agencies in other jurisdictions. After consulting whether this scenario could pose a conflict of interest, it is the opinion of the Office of the Independent Advocate (OIA) that no conflict would exist and that the assistant chief’s son’s work in connection with the training video does not violate the ethics code.

