

MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

K #: K12-103

Date Opened: July 16, 2012

Date Closed: August 31, 2012

Name of Investigator: Breno Penichet

Allegation:

This investigation is predicated on information received alleging illegal activity at the Miami-Dade County Permitting, Environment and Regulatory Affairs, Inspection and Permitting Center (MDPIC). The information also alleged that Inspectors have been getting kickbacks to overlook violations, or not enforce the County Code. Allegedly, this activity has been going on for years with the knowledge of the Department Director.

Applicable Legislation:

(g) **Exploitation of official position prohibited.** No person included in the terms defined in Subsections (b) (1) through (6) and (b) (13) shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or herself 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”.

Investigation:

COE Investigators reviewed the information included in the e-mail provided by the complainant who requested to remain anonymous. The allegations were broad and dealt mainly with possible bribery and selling approvals. The e-mail named six (6) current MDPIC employees, but did not specify the particular alleged infraction committed by any of them. A records check of the employee’s file revealed that all but one are long time employees of Miami-Dade County (MDC) and no other complaints of this kind were noted.

COE Investigators contacted the complainant via e-mail and set up a meeting in order to obtain further information or any documents in his possession that could aid in the investigation. COE Investigators also contacted Miami Dade County Police Department (MDPD) Detective Tracy Gallup, who is assigned to the Public Corruption Investigation Bureau (PCIB), to sit in on the interview due to the fact that some allegations were criminal in nature. The complainant did not appear at the meeting scheduled for Tuesday July 31, 2012 at 2p.m. To date, the complainant has not made contact with this investigator. Complainant's broad based allegations are not specific enough to investigate. Complainant has not provided any further detailed information for investigators.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, this matter is closed with no further action. If complainant contacts us again and can provide more specific and detailed information the case may be reopened.