

**Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust**

**Investigative Report**

**Investigator:** Manuel W. Diaz

<b>Case No.:</b> K13-046	<b>Case Name:</b> Eagan et al.	<b><u>Date Open:</u></b> 3/26/2013	<b><u>Date Closed:</u></b> 6/14/13
<b>Complainant(s):</b> Anonymous	<b>Subject(s):</b> Thomas Eagan Jose Romero Michael Cox		

**Allegation(s):**

The COE received anonymous correspondence advising that Thomas Eagan (Egan), Jose Romero (Romero) and Michael Cox (Cox) met with and lobbied Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez and Deputy Mayor Jack Osterholt for the control of a Miami-Dade County building located at 140 West Flagler St., Miami, Florida (140 Building). (Copy of letter contained in investigative file.)

**Relevant Ordinances:**

Sec. 2-11.1. Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance,  
“(s) Lobbying, (2) All lobbyists shall register with the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners within three (3) business days of being retained as a lobbyist or before engaging in any lobbying activities, whichever shall come first.”

**Investigation:**

***Interviews***

**Jack Osterhol**, Miami-Dade County Deputy Mayor

Osterholt confirmed that he met with Eagan, Romero and Cox to discuss the possible development of the 140 Building. He assumed that the individuals were registered as lobbyists.

**Carlos Gimenez**, Miami-Dade County Mayor

Gimenez confirmed that he met with Eagan, Romero and a third individual to discuss the development of the 140 Building. He did not recall the name of the third individual. The Mayor assumed that they were registered as lobbyists.



**Thomas Eagan**, Squire Sanders, LLP

Eagan was sent a contact letter and contacted the COE. He advised that he recently received a call from the Mayor's Office advising him that he was required to register.

Eagan confirmed that he, Romero and Cox met with Osterholt and Gimenez to discuss future uses for the Miami-Dade County building located at 140 West Flagler. Eagan explained that he was a board member of a Florida Not-For Profit, Workforce Housing Foundation, Inc., and assumed that he did not have to register as a lobbyist. He acknowledged after reading the County Code and speaking with Clerk of the Board's Office that he was in error and was required to register.

He advised that he would contact Romero and Cox and advise them that they must also register.

Romero and Cox registered as lobbyists. Copies of their registration forms were provided to the COE by Eagan.

***Document/Audio/Video Review:***

Office of the Mayor, Sign-In Log (Copy included in file)

January 8, 2012 visitors' log for Osterholt signed by Eagan, Romero and Cox .

March 21, 2013 visitors' log for Gimenez signed by Eagan and Cox.

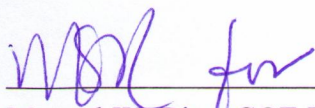
**Eagan** Miami-Dade County 2013 Annual Lobbyist Registration dated May 24, 2013.

**Romero** Miami-Dade County 2013 Annual Lobbyist Registration dated May 28, 2013.

**Cox** Miami-Dade County 2013 Annual Lobbyist Registration dated May 28, 2013.

**Conclusion:**

After discussion with the Advocate, it was determined that the instant case would be closed without further action given that the three individuals came into compliance by registering, the lobbying activity was limited to one meeting and they were representing a non-for-profit corporation. Pursuant to Section 2-11.1 (s)(4), any person who only appears as a representative of a not-for-profit corporation shall not be required to pay lobbyist registration fees. However, a copy of this report will be sent to the subjects reminding them of their obligation under Section 2-11.1(s)(2)(d) regarding lobbyist ethics training.



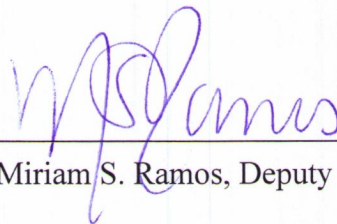
Manuel W. Diaz, COE Investigator

Approved by:

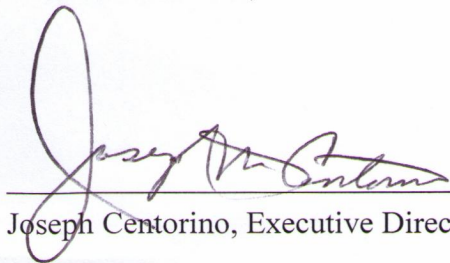


Michael Murawski, Advocate

6/27/13



Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy General Counsel



Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

6/27/13

Date