



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

**Investigative Report**

**Investigator:** Breno Penichet

<b>Case No.</b>	<b>Case Name:</b>	<b>Date Open:</b>	<b>Date Closed:</b>
K13-059	Miami Police PAL		
<b>Complainant(s):</b> Sergeant George Law Miami Police Dept., Internal Affairs Unit	<b>Subject(s):</b> Officer Derrick Banks City of Miami Police Police Athletic League	April 12, 2013	August 20, 2013

**Allegation(s):**

An anonymous complaint was received by the City of Miami Internal Affairs unit concerning the use and payments for services by the Miami Police Athletic League (PAL) of a company co-owned by a City of Miami police officer. The complaint was referred to the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust by Sgt. George Law.

**Relevant Ordinances:**

Sec. 2-11.1(c), *Prohibition on transacting business within the County.*

**Investigation:**

***Interviews***

**Sergeant George Law**

Miami Police Department, Internal Affairs Section  
1313 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami, Florida 33142  
Tel. (305) 835-2000

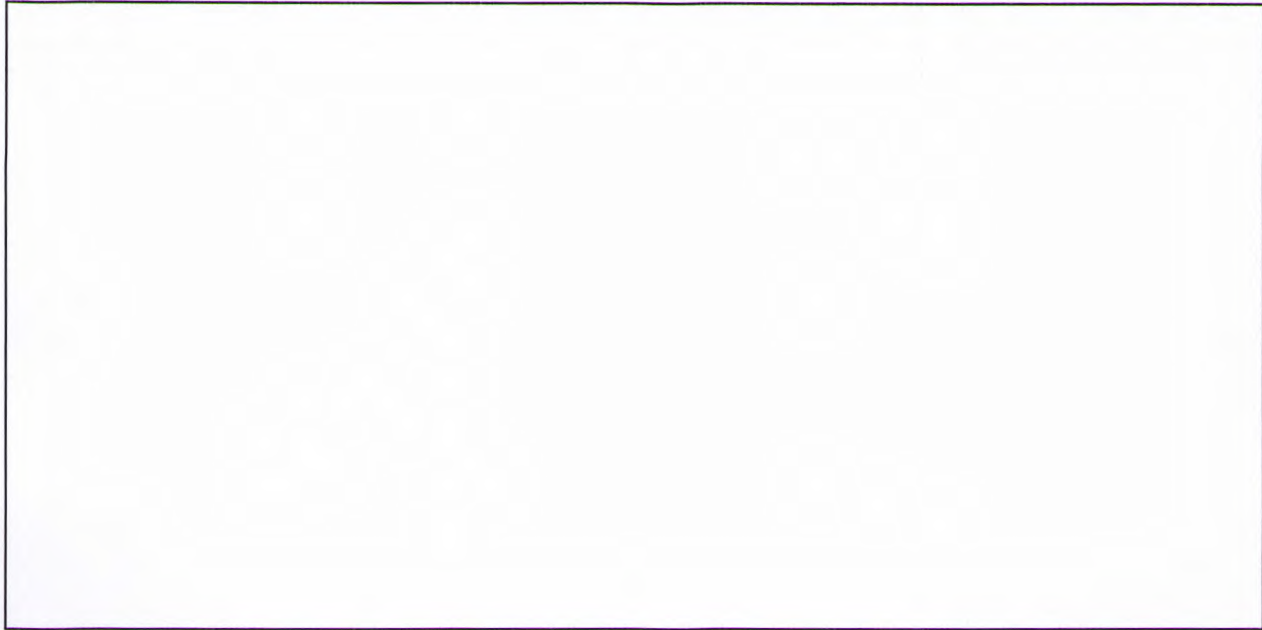
On May 7<sup>th</sup> 2013, Sergeant George Law (Law) voluntarily agreed to be interviewed telephonically and provide information concerning an anonymous complaint received by his unit. The anonymous complaint(s) alleged, that PAL hired "Ecredible Events & Décor" to cater an event. The company provided decorations, paper wear, and other miscellaneous items for the PAL Football and Cheer banquet. According to Law, the anonymous complaint alleged that a Miami police officer, Kenneth Banks (Banks), is the co-owner of the above business, along with his wife Latoyias Banks. Law further stated the officer may have been part of the PAL staff. Law also advised that PAL is a non- profit organization and not part of the Miami Police Dept. Law referred the complaint to the COE in order to determine if a violation of the Conflict on Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance occurred.

**Major Craig McQueen**

Miami Police Department  
400 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33128  
(305) 603-6635

On July 25, 2013, Major Craig McQueen (McQueen) voluntarily agreed to meet with COE investigators, and provide information regarding this investigation. McQueen advised that he has been the coordinator and coach for PAL for many years. Every year at the end of the season, a banquet is planned in order to hand out trophies and other awards. McQueen stated that he was advised that there would be no banquet because it would be too expensive. McQueen felt the banquet was necessary because it builds character. McQueen advised he started to contact different vendors in order obtain prices. He said that every step of the way he kept the PAL board advised of the progress being made.

McQueen advised that he used the company "Ecredible Events & Décor LLC," because they quoted the best price and he had used them in the past. McQueen advised that Banks is one of the coaches, but is not part of PAL. McQueen advised PAL is privately funded and is a non- profit corporation. He further stated that PAL has always received contributions and services from family members. McQueen advised that Banks never recommended his wife's company. McQueen provided documents that will be made part of this case.



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

1. Copies of invoices and checks for “Ecredible Events & Décor LLC” and other vendors that provided chairs, trophies, tables, and banquet hall.
2. E-mail from McQueen to Lt. Richard Perez showing the prices and different vendors.
3. Letter from sponsor Himan Brown charitable trust.
4. Corporation documents of the Miami PAL (not-for-profit) and Ecredible Events & Décor LLC.
5. Pictures of decorations provided by Ecredible Events & Décor LLC.

**Conclusion(s):**

After reviewing the information provided by McQueen, there is no evidence that Banks participated in choosing the vendor for the event. Furthermore, McQueen advised that Banks was not assigned to the PAL. After providing the information gathered as a result of the investigation, Advocate Michael Murawski advised that no further action would be taken since there does not appear to be an ethics violation. Accordingly, this case is closed.

Breno Penichet, COE Investigator

Approved by:

Michael Murawski, Advocate

Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy General Counsel

Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

8/29/13  
Date