



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Preliminary Inquiry Report

Investigator: Karl Ross

Case No: PI 14-033	Case Name: Lt. David Ramras traffic stop	Date Open:	CASE CLOSED Date: <u>11/6/14</u>
Complainant(s):	Subject(s): Miami Police Lt. David Ramras	July 15, 0214	

Allegation(s):

A case was opened following reports that Miami Police Lt. David Ramras may have engaged in improper and/or exploitive conduct during a June 24, 2014, traffic stop in which Lt. Ramras allegedly invoked his authority as a police officer after being pulled over on Flagler Street.

The incident, captured on a dashboard camera used by the patrol officer (Marcel Jackson), led to an inquiry by the Miami Police Department's Office of Internal Affairs, as well as the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office. A close-out memo was issued Sept. 25, 2014.

Relevant Ordinances:

Miami-Dade County Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Ordinance

Miami-Dade County Code, Sec. 2-11.1(g), Exploitation of official position prohibited, stating in applicable part that no person ... "shall use or attempt to use his official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or others ..."

Investigation:

Interviews

On Oct. 14, 2014, COE contacted the office of Internal Affairs headed by police Maj. Jorge Colina, at (305) 835-2000, and spoke with Barbara Sweet. Ms. Sweet advised that the matter was still under review and no information could be released at this time. She suggested COE send her an email requesting the findings after the case is closed. An email was sent.

On Oct. 14, 2014, COE contacted the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office to see if the matter had been referred to the Public Corruption Unit, as indicated in a Miami Herald story. It was learned the matter had been reviewed and closed out. A request was made for the file.

On Oct. 15, 2014, COE received a copy of the close-out memo dated September 25, 2014, and prepared by Assistant State Attorney Johnette Hardiman, Chief of Special Prosecution Intake. In her memo, ASA Hardiman opined there was no evidence of a crime having been committed by either Lt. Ramras or arresting Officer Jackson. The matter was referred back to the Miami Police Department for administrative review.

On Oct. 15, COE returned a call from Sgt. Albert Guerra of the Miami Police Internal Affairs office, and was advised that the matter was likely to be closed out in the next few weeks.

Sgt. Guerra indicated that he was largely in agreement with the findings in the SAO close-out report, and stated that both police officers involved in the incident would likely receive some disciplinary action as a result of the incident. He said Lt. Ramras has been re-assigned from Internal Affairs to the department's communication office as a form of discipline.

Sgt. Guerra agreed to provide a copy of his close-out memo when it is completed.

Document/Audio/Video Review:

- A link to a website with a copy of the video footage was reviewed, as were media accounts of the incident published online and in the Miami Herald.
- A copy of the SAO close-out memo was reviewed and added to the file.

Conclusion(s):

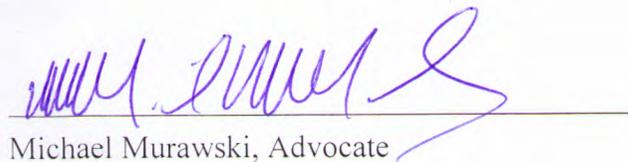
Upon preliminary review and consultation with the Ethics Advocate, it was determined this case should be closed without further action by COE. It should be noted that Lt. Ramras was on-duty and acting in an official capacity at the time he was pulled over.

The ensuing scuffle did not appear to involve any matters subject to the county's ethics code, but appear to be administrative in nature and best left to the Miami Police Department. Based on this preliminary inquiry, it would appear no further action is required by this agency.

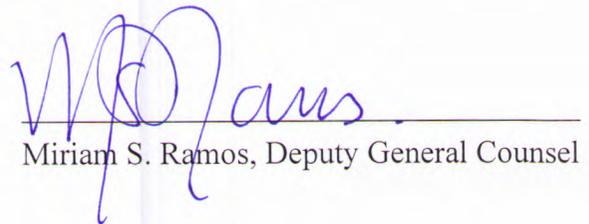


Karl Ross, COE Investigator

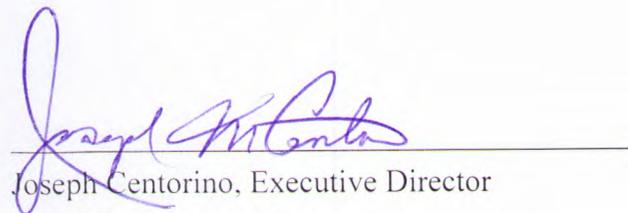
Approved by:



Michael Murawski, Advocate



Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy General Counsel



Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

11/6/14
Date