



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Investigative Report

Investigator: Robert Steinback

Case No: K14-083	Case Name: Alfredo Balsera	Date Open:	CASE CLOSED Date: <u>9/24/14</u>
	Subject(s): Alfredo Balsera	May 27, 2014	

Allegation(s):

Alfredo "Freddy" Balsera (Balsera) is alleged to have registered as a lobbyist in Miami-Dade County, but failed to attend the Ethics Training Class for Lobbyists as required by county law.

Relevant Ordinances:

Balsera is alleged to have violated Sec. 2-11.1(s)(2)(d) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, which reads in relevant part: *Each lobbyist shall, within sixty (60) days after registering as a lobbyist, submit to the Clerk of the Board a certificate of completion of an ethics course offered by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust.*

Analysis

Balsera is the principal of Balsera Communications of Coral Gables. Balsera has initiated numerous efforts to meet the Ethics Training Course obligation since October 3, 2013, but repeatedly failed to follow through.

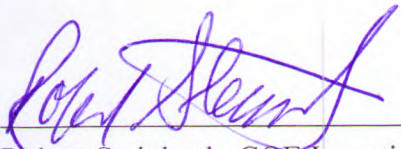
Balsera reserved a spot in the October 3, 2013, ethics training class, and paid for the course by a check written on Sept. 26, 2013, but he did not attend. He was rescheduled for the January 15, 2014, but again, did not attend. His office promised he would attend on May 28, 2014, but once again he did not.

Balsera and/or his office staff communicated with the Commission on Ethics (COE) staff numerous times during the year since October 2013 regarding the applicability of county lobbying requirements. At one stage, Balsera stated to COE Executive Director Joseph Centorino that he, Balsera, did not intend to re-register as a lobbyist for 2014 and was informed that if that was indeed the case, he would not need to take the Ethics Training class. There was also some confusion between Balsera Communications and COE regarding other Balsera Communications employees, notably Carlos Gimenez, Jr. Gimenez was signed up to take the class on May 28, 2014, but then withdrew evidently because he believed his lobbying activities would be limited to the City of Miami and preferred to take the city's course.

Balsera finally attended the Ethics Training Course held on Sept. 19, 2014. Claude Francis, the lobbyist registrar for the Miami-Dade Clerk of the Courts office, reports that Balsera has not registered as a lobbyist for 2014.

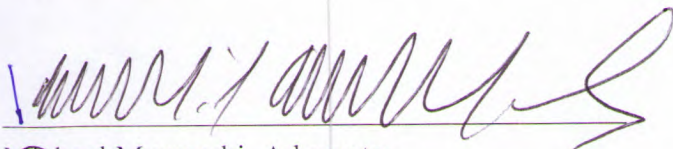
Conclusion(s):

Since Respondent has complied with the training requirement, the instant case is closed without further action.

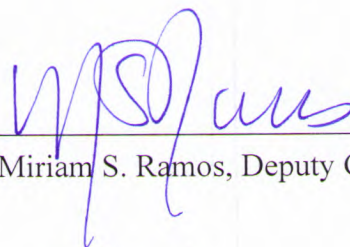


Robert Steinback, COE Investigator

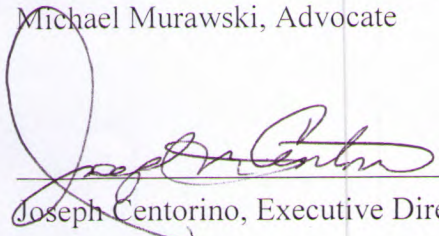
Approved by:



Michael Murawski, Advocate



Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy General Counsel



Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

9/24/14

Date