



CASE CLOSED
Date 12/27/2016

Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Preliminary Investigative Report

Investigator: Nilda Olmo

Case: PI 16-46	Case Name: Frank Rollason-Signs	<u>Date Opened:</u> 10/20/2016	
Complainant(s): Connie Leon-Kreps	Subject(s): Frank Rollason		

Allegation(s):

Connie Leon-Kreps (Kreps), Mayor for North Bay Village, e-mailed COE requesting an investigation into the preferential treatment pertaining to placement of political signs and how she is being targeted, unlike other candidates. Kreps stated that the morning after she placed her campaign signs, the Village Manager, Frank Rollason (Rollason), sent an e-mail regarding sign placements. Leon-Kreps alleges Jorge Gonzalez (Gonzalez), candidate for Mayor, was allowed to display his signs over a month prior to anyone else.

Relevant Law:

Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, Sec. 2-11.1 (g) *Exploitation of official position prohibited*. No person included in the terms defined in Subsection (b) (1) through (6) and (b) (13) shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure 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:
Interviews**

**Connie Leon-Kreps (Kreps)
Mayor, North Bay Village**

Leon-Kreps stated that during the election, she felt the rules/regulations did not apply to everyone equally, and believes she was singled out, and a double standard exists. She explained that the day after she placed her signs, 9/29/2016, she received an email from Rollason regarding sign placements and code provisions.

She pointed out that Gonzalez was allowed to display his signs over a month prior to anyone else. Furthermore, not only Gonzalez but other candidates also failed to follow the Code and were allowed to display their signs.

Leon-Kreps provided several photographs that she said corroborated her allegations.

Frank Rollason (Rollason), North Bay Village Manager

Rollason voluntarily agreed to meet with this Investigator. He was accompanied by Evelyn Herbello, Executive Assistant to the Village Manager and Commission/Grant Coordinator/Emergency Manager, and Jenice Rosado, Deputy Village Manager/HR Director.

Rollason was questioned regarding Leon-Kreps' allegation, and he provided the following information. He assured that there was no preferential treatment toward any of the candidates. In fact, he mentioned he sent out emails to all candidates reminding them about Florida State Law as well as the Village policy pertaining to political signs.

Rollason added that if and when he receives a complaint, the policy is to notify the candidate. He mentioned he e-mailed Leon-Kreps after receiving a complaint about the placement of two of her signs in the same residence, when the Code allows only one yard sign per candidate.

When questioned about the photographs provided by Leon-Kreps, Rollason stated he had not seen the photographs prior to our meeting, nor was he contacted by the Mayor regarding the code violations of the candidate's signs, as depicted in the photographs.

He also mentioned that while driving around on a Sunday morning, he noticed several of Leon-Kreps' signs installed in the right of way. One sign was on the public right of way placed on the Shell Station on the Causeway. Rollason sent her a "courtesy" e-mail notifying her of the above mentioned violations but no Code Enforcement action was taken.

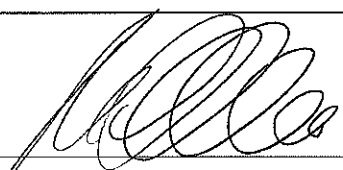
A request was made to provide emails relevant to the above mentioned allegations, and said documents were provided the following day. This Investigator reviewed the e-mails and found Rollason did in fact notify all of the candidates in general and individually in particular circumstances.

Records Review:

- Any and all emails provided by Leon-Kreps and Rollason were reviewed.
- Photographs provided by Leon-Kreps.
As for the photographs provided, since no date is stamped, one cannot ascertain as to when the signs were placed, who placed them and how long they were at the location in question. It is also possible to move or remove signs at any time, by anyone. Therefore, photographs might not always be an accurate depiction.

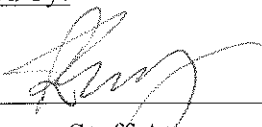
Conclusion:

After consultation with Staff Attorney Radia Turay, it was determined that there was insufficient evidence to support an ethics violation against Rollason and that this matter should be closed with no further action.



Nilda Olmo, COE Investigator

Approved by:



Radia Turay, Staff Attorney



Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

Date: 12/22/16