



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

**Report of Investigation**

**Investigator:** Susannah Nesmith

<b>Case:</b> K17-17	<b>Case Name:</b> Homestead Lobbying	<b>Date Open:</b> March 7, 2017	<b>Date Closed:</b> Aug. 14, 2017
<b>Complainant(s):</b> Anonymous	<b>Subject(s):</b> Lewis Swezy, Jason Bass	<b>CASE CLOSED</b> Date: 8/18/17	

**Allegation(s):**

The Commission on Ethics received an anonymous email claiming that Lewis Swezy and Jason Bass were lobbying in the City of Homestead without registering and that Bass is working on a contingency basis. According to the letter, Swezy and Bass have met and negotiated with the mayor and other city personnel.

**Relevant Law:**

Unregistered lobbying – Section 2-11.1 (s) - and lobbying on a contingency basis – Section 2-11.1 (s) (7)

**Investigation:**

***Interviews:***

Assistant City Clerk Patty Sullivan advised Swezy spoke before the council on Feb. 22, 2017 regarding the Southwind Apartments, which he owns. At that time she advised him that he had to register as a lobbyist. He filled out the initial paperwork that day and submitted a formal lobbyist application on March 7.

Bass registered as a lobbyist on Jan. 11, 2017.

On Aug. 14, 2017, this investigator met with Swezy and Bass at their office in Miami Lakes. Swezy said he didn't realize that as the owner of the property he was required to register as a lobbyist, but that he did so as soon as he learned of the requirement. He said he did not meet with any city personnel and only spoke the one time before the council.

Bass said he met with each of the city council members and the mayor and that all of them acknowledged that ex-parte communication when the rezoning issue came before the council. Those meetings were after he registered as a lobbyist, he said. He is a salaried employee of Swezy's company and denies that he is paid on commission.

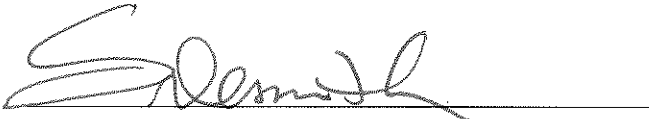
***Document(s) Reviewed:***

Both lobbyist registration forms.

Property records for Southwind Apartments, Inc., located at 202 NE 18<sup>th</sup> Ave., Homestead, FL 33014. Corporate record (Sunbiz) for South Wind Apartments, Inc., showing Lewis Swezy as the registered agent and sole director.

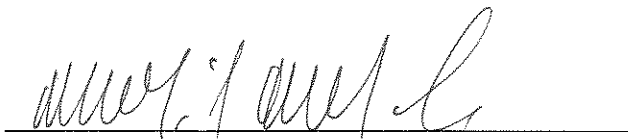
**Conclusion:**

The allegation that Bass was paid on contingency is unfounded. The claim of unregistered lobbying was rectified at the time. After consultation with the ethics Advocate, it was determined that this matter would be closed with no further action.

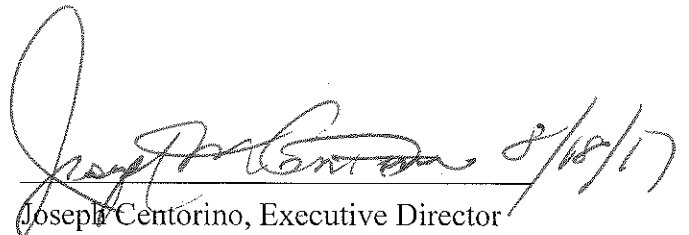


Susannah Nesmith, COE Investigator

Approved by:



Michael Murawski, Advocate



Joseph Centorino, Executive Director