



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

**Preliminary Inquiry Report**

**Investigator: Breno Penichet**

<b>Case</b> PI 17-07	<b>Case Name:</b> Complaint E-Mail from ITD Program Manager	<b>Date Open:</b> January 18, 2017	<b>CASE CLOSED</b>  Date: 5/85/17
<b>Complainant(s):</b> Shanda Mazzorana	<b>Subject(s):</b> Thomas Dratler		

**Allegation(s):**

The COE received information from the Information Technology Department (ITD) Program Manager alleging that a staff member, Thomas Dratler owed money in the form of liens on his property and was the person overseeing the program that monitors the collecting of monies for such liens.

**Relevant Ordinances:**

*Exploitation of official position, Sec. 2-11.1(g), Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance.*

## Investigation:

### *Interviews*

Commission on Ethics & Public Trust (COE) Staff Attorney Radia Turay received information regarding a possible exploitation of official position by Mr. Thomas Dratler (Dratler), Information Technology Department (ITD).

According to Turay, the following information was provided by Ms. Shanda Mazzorana (Mazzorana) IT Program Manager, ITD. Mazzorana advised the following.

- ITD and RER entered into a contract / agreement that states that ITD was to create a program to assist RER in tracking and collecting Liens.
- ITD provided an employee, Dratler to work on the team creating the program.
- It was discovered that Dratler had open liens in the system (that may have been paid off)
- Apparently ITD has taken some time to create the program and work out all the problems.
- RER is alleging that Dratler may have a conflict and should not be working on the project / program because of the outstanding liens.
- RER feels the reason the program is taking longer to create and perfect is possibly because Dratler may be slowing down the process in order to benefit himself.

Turay advised this Investigator to contact Ms. Alicia Martinez (Martinez) Computer Services Manager ITD.

**Ms. Alicia M. Martinez**  
**Computer Service Manager**  
**Information Technology services Department.**

Ms. Alicia Martinez (Martinez), ITD, voluntarily agreed to telephonically speak with COE investigator Penichet, and provide information regarding this investigation. Martinez advised that Dratler works under her supervision, and is part of the ITD team working on the RER program known as “ **Cogsdale, ERecording, SWU lockbox transfer processes to Wells Fargo’s secure FTP sites**”. According to Martinez, Dratler also has other responsibilities that support other systems not related to Storm water utility. Martinez also advised Dratler has been working on this particular project on and off for 18 years. Martinez advised this particular problem was brought to her attention by Mr. Randall White (White), Manager Storm Water utility section RER. While she (Martinez) was meeting with White and Ms. Donna Romito. White advised he ran a report on liens owed, and found Dratler’s list of failure to pay liens. Martinez advised that she notified her supervisor, Ms. Carmen Suarez, and the matter was referred to Shana Mazzorana, the person that suggested they consult the COE.

**Shanda Mazzorana**  
**ITD Program manager**  
**Information Technology Services Department**

Mazzorana voluntarily agreed to meet with COE Investigator Penichet and Olmo, and provide information regarding this investigation. Mazzorana advised that she is the person that requested this investigation to determine if any abuse of official position occurred. As stated, during a routine meeting between RER and ITD managers it was discussed that Dratler had a large number of overdue liens on his property for failure to pay his storm water bills.

Mazzorana advised that Dratler is an 18 year employee that came over from DERM's IT section when the reorganization occurred. Dratler was put in charge of the storm water lien taking program many years ago when the program was initiated, and has been there all along to what it has become today. Mazzorana advised that Dratler did pay the liens in full when he became aware of the investigation. Mazzorana advised that a cursory review of the program did not show any type of manipulation by Dratler or anyone else.

Mazzorana advised that she would arrange a meeting between these Investigators and the participants of the meeting that originally revealed the problems with the unpaid liens.

**Randall White**  
**Manager**  
**Storm Water utility section**

Mr. Randall White (White), RER, voluntarily agreed to meet with COE Investigator Penichet and Olmo, and provide information regarding this investigation. White advised that he is a manager for the storm water section. White further stated that he requested a specific type of report from IT that would show the pending liens. White stated that is when the situation with Dratler was brought to the foreground. White did say that it was widely known around the unit that Dratler did owe some money but he was not aware the actual amount until he looked over the report. White notified his supervisor and brought it to Martinez's attention.

**Jean Kunce**  
**Accountant 3**  
**Storm Water Utility Section**

Ms. Jean Kunce (Kunce), RER, voluntarily agreed to meet with COE Investigator Penichet and Olmo, and provide information regarding this investigation. Kunce advised that she became aware of the situation and conducted a cursory check of the program and found no evidence of tampering. Kunce did check all the figures in order to insure the integrity of the program. Kunce did advise that it was a well-known fact that Dratler owed money to MDC for storm water waste.

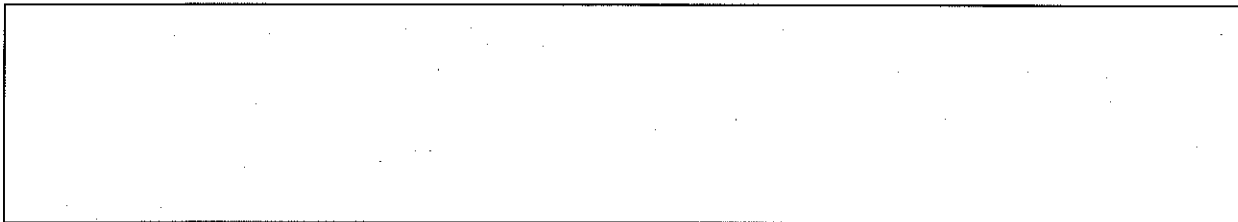
**Thomas Dratler**  
**Computer Service Manager**  
**Information Technology services Department.**

Dratler voluntarily agreed to speak with COE Investigator B. Penichet and provide information regarding this investigation. Dratler advised that he is the IT person assigned to Storm water section.

Dratler further stated that the allegation that he owed liens on his personal property was true, but that since then, he has paid the liens in full. Dratler advised that he could have tampered with the program to help himself but would never do that; he is an 18- year employee of MDC and had too much respect for his office, department, and bosses.

Dratler advised that he provided RER with the copy of the report showing the liens. Dratler also verified the fact that he paid off the liens. He also advised that when it was brought to his attention he took care of it and made sure it did not happen again. Dratler advised the staff did know he owed some liens, but it was always a joke around the office so he decided not to have it happen again.

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



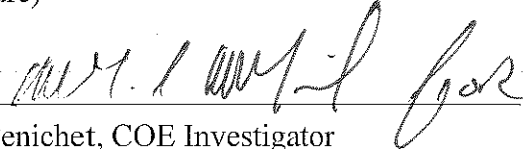
**Conclusion(s):**

As a result of the interviews and the review of the records provided by Mazzorana and RER & ITD personnel, the evidence gathered failed to show that Dratler exploited his official position as alleged.

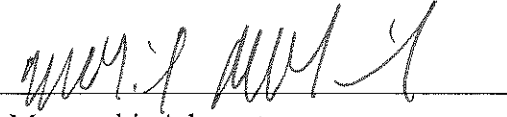
All the information obtained was discussed with Advocate Michael Murawski who determined that there is insufficient evidence to proceed.

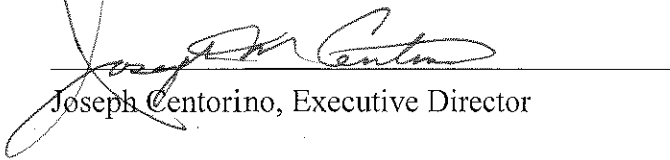
Murawski also advised that no further action would be taken since there does not appear to be any ethics-related violations. Accordingly it is recommended that the above case be closed.

(Signature)

  
Breno Penichet, COE Investigator

Approved by:

  
Michael Murawski, Advocate

  
Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

5/25/17  
Date Closed