



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust

Investigative Report

Investigator: Nilda Olmo

Case: PI 17-40	Case Name: Harper	Date Opened: 11/02/17	CASE CLOSED
Complainant(s):	Subject(s): Thomas Harper		

Date: 12/14/17

Allegation(s):

Thomas Harper (Harper), a former County employee was the focus of an NBC 6 investigation. The investigation revealed that Lataya Everette had been living in Section 8 housing since 2010. Her rent was subsidized by the County and she made voucher payments that covered \$1,200 of the \$1,383 monthly rent. The vouchers were under Everette's name.

In 2015, Everette married Harper, and, although the County requires a 10-day notice of any changes to the household composition or changes in income, the couple failed to report this change in status. Furthermore, the NBC 6 investigation found that Harper as a County employee made an income twice the maximum amount allowed to qualify for the Miami-Dade Public & Housing Development, House Choice Voucher Program.

NBC also reported that an investigation by the Housing Department was thereupon initiated.

Relevant Law(s):

Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, Sec. 2-11.1 (c)
Prohibition on transacting business within the County.

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

Investigation:

Interviews

The COE contacted Harper regarding the allegations. Harper stated he had retired from the County in October of this year. Furthermore, he stated he voluntarily entered into a repayment agreement with Miami-Dade County.

Harper's information was confirmed by the Miami-Dade Public & Housing Development, House Choice Voucher Program. A copy of the executed Repayment Agreement and the Letter of Commitment are attached.

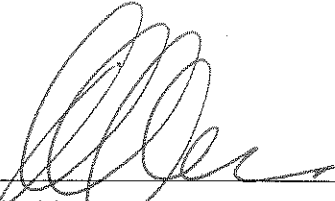
Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department was contacted and confirmed that Harper terminated employment with the County.

Documents/Video Review:

1. E-mail-Provided by Alourdes Pierre, Human Resources Manager, Personnel Management Bureau, Miami-Dade Corrections & Rehabilitation Department.
2. Harper's Repayment Agreement- Provided by the Public Housing and Community Development, Miami-Dade Housing Voucher Program.
3. Harper's Letter of Commitment to the Public Housing and Community Development, Miami-Dade Housing Voucher Program.

Conclusion:

After discussing the case with the COE Advocate it was determined that this matter should be closed with no further action. Harper is no longer a County employee and is making restitution to the Housing Department. There was no specific ethics violation identified that Harper committed.

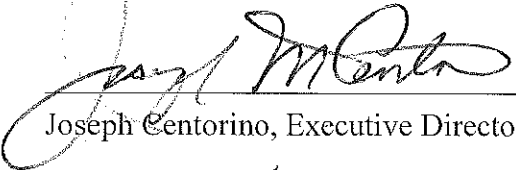


Nilda Olmo, COE Investigator

Approved by:



Michael Murawski, Advocate



Joseph Centorino, Executive Director

Date: 12/14/17