



**CASE
CLOSED**

Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust ^{Date: 6-10-19}

Investigative Report

Investigator: Sylvia Batista
Complainant: David Singer
Date Opened: 05/21/19
Date Submitted: 06/05/19

Case No. C19-24-05/K19-31
Subject:
Case Name: Palmetto Bay
Councilmember Marsha Matson

Allegation(s):

Village of Palmetto Bay Councilmember, David Singer (Singer) filed a complaint against Village of Palmetto Bay Councilmember, Marsha Matson (Matson) for allegedly acting outside her legal boundaries by exercising authority over Village staff by giving directions to staff and interfering with the duties of the Village Manager, Edward Silva (Silva). Singer informed that Matson assumed authority over Village staff by directing Silva in the production of a video entitled "Walk and Talk with Marsha." The video appeared in the Village's official Facebook page on or about 04/11/19.

Singer alleged that Matson's involvement resulted in a video which promoted her own political identity in furtherance of her political career. Such communications are required to contain a disclaimer on each one stating that it is not an official communication of the Village. Such disclaimer did not appear at the conclusion of the video entitled "Walk and Talk with Marsha."

Relevant Laws:

The 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 Subsections (b)(1) through (6) and (b)(13) shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure special 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.

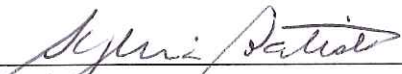
Interviews:

05/30/19 – Edward Silva, Manager of Village of Palmetto Bay –

Silva met with the Advocate and this investigator regarding the allegations made by Singer. Silva explained that Matson's video, "Walk and Talk with Marsha" was intended to be an outreach effort to promote discussion with her constituents which would result in policy making. This is the power of being in office. Silva said that he did not feel that Matson's involvement in producing the video improperly intended to be self-promotion by Matson of her political career, but rather an effort to reach out to her constituents and make policy supportive of their interests and concerns. Silva said that her requests were normal requests made from a manager.

Conclusion:

This report was forwarded to the Advocate for probable cause determination.



Sylvia Batista, Investigator

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