



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

Investigator: Susannah Nesmith  
Complainant: Sandra Valencia

CaseNo.: PI19-02  
Subject/Case Name: Mayor Claudia Cubillos

Date Opened: 1/29/2019

Date Submitted: 2/4/2019

**Allegation(s):**

El Portal Mayor Claudia Cubillos violated the Citizen's Bill of Rights when she interrupted Sandra Valencia, who was speaking during the Good and Welfare section of the commission meeting on Jan. 22, 2019.

**Relevant Law:**

Citizens' Bill of Rights (A) 5.

Right to be Heard. So far as the orderly conduct of public business permits, any interested person has the right to appear before the Commission or any municipal council or any County or municipal agency, board or department for the presentation, adjustment or determination of an issue, request or controversy within the jurisdiction of the governmental entity involved; provided, nothing herein shall prohibit the Commission or any municipal council from referring a matter to a committee of each of their respective bodies to conduct a public hearing, unless prohibited by law. Matters shall be scheduled for the convenience of the public, and the agenda shall be divided into approximate time periods so that the public may know approximately when a matter will be heard. Nothing herein shall prohibit any governmental entity or agency from imposing reasonable time limits for the presentation of a matter

**Investigation:**

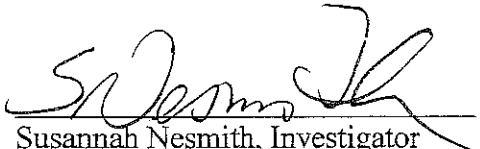
The video the complainant forwarded to COE staff was viewed. In it, Mayor Claudia Cubillos asks the complainant to restrict her comments to items on the agenda, which the complainant agrees to do. The complainant is allowed to continue questioning the Manager about the specific dates of certain events. When the Manager explains that she doesn't have her calendar with her and she'll have to check and get back to her, the complainant suggests the Manager doesn't know the dates. Mayor Cubillos interrupts several times to ask the complainant to email the Manager her questions the next morning so that she can get accurate information for her.

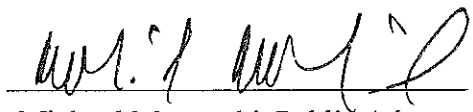
**Documents/Exhibit Review:**

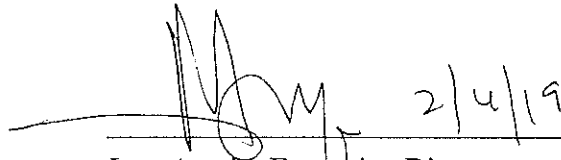
The video posted here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BW1EDoJXXs&feature=youtu.be>

After review and discussion with the Ethics Advocate, it was determined that this matter would be closed with no further action. Ms. Valencia's ability to ask questions was not curtailed, the Mayor merely suggested that she e-mail or call the Manager in order to obtain the accurate information since the Manager did not have her calendar with her at the time of the meeting. While Ms. Valencia felt disrespected by what she perceived as the Mayor laughing at her, such behavior by the Mayor does not fall under the Citizens' Bill of Rights.

  
Susannah Nesmith, Investigator

  
Michael Murawski, Public Advocate

 2/4/19  
Jose Arrojo, Executive Director