



**CASE
CLOSED**

Date: 7-15-19

MEMORANDUM

**TO: Johnette Hardiman, Assistant State Attorney,
Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office**

**FROM: Sylvia Batista, Investigator, Miami-Dade County Commission on
Ethics and Public Trust**

RE: Lara Hamwey, Director, City of Miami Parks and Recreation Dept.

DATE: July 15, 2019

The COE received information regarding a possible Sunshine Law violation by the Director of the City of Miami Parks and Recreation Department, Lara Hamwey (Hamwey). Hamwey coordinated and hosted a community discussion regarding Albert Pallot Park (the Park) which has been in the process of renovation since 2015 by Joseph Milton. The community meeting was scheduled for 06/12/19 at Miami Bay Club, a private property. The meeting was noticed by e-mail on 06/11/19.

Approximately 25 neighbors from the community were welcomed to the meeting, however, according to a source present, there were several people, including members of the press, who were turned away and kept from entering the meeting. Those turned away were told that only people from within the Park community could attend. No City Commissioner or board member attended the meeting.

An e-mail from attorney Iris Escarral of Greenberg Traurig dated 06/13/19 addressed the allegation made against Hamwey explaining that the meeting was not a public meeting as defined by Florida Statutes requiring access to the general public. Ms. Escarral, on behalf of Joseph Milton, Manager of Miami Bay Trust LLC, explained that the Sunshine Law does not apply to community forums such as the one held on 06/12/19.