



**CASE  
CLOSED**

Date: 10/28/19

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

Investigator: Nilda Olmo  
Complainant: Anonymous  
Date Opened: 07/09/19

Case No.: PI 19-30  
Subject/Case Name: Thera Johnson  
Date Submitted: 10/24/19

**Allegation(s):**

Back in March 2018, this investigator received a call from an unidentified female. The anonymous caller alleged that Thera Johnson (Johnson), employed by Miami-Dade County Parks Recreation and Public Places (PROS), was stalking and threatening her and her family. The caller indicated the threats date back to 2012, and due to her connections, "Johnson tracks me" throughout Florida, using County resources.

The caller made several calls to the COE via phone and/or email with additional allegations of Johnson's involvement in numerous crimes, including human trafficking, "gang stalking" and others, causing physical and mental abuse, "all of with, the use of terrorism and remote neutral monitoring."

After several unsuccessful efforts to locate the anonymous caller, with no evidence to proceed against Johnson, the case was closed with no further action.

On July 7, 2019, the COE received an email from the same anonymous source via VipMali [malivip33@gmail.com](mailto:malivip33@gmail.com) alleging Johnson, a County Recreational Specialist, continued to stalk her using County resources. In addition, she alleged Johnson was molesting children at Ojus Park, her place of employment, located at 18995 West Dixie Highway, Miami. FL. 33179.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Malivip33@gmail.com](mailto:Malivip33@gmail.com) is the same email used by the anonymous source last year, when the same caller made the initial allegations.

### **Relevant Law:**

Miami-Dade County 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 Subsection (b)(1) through (6) and (b) (13) shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure 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.

### **Investigation:**

The allegation did not involve any ethics violations, however, given our initial contact with the complainant, we followed up with the inquiry.

Mary Palacios (Palacios), Miami-Dade Park and Recreation's Disability Service Manager was contacted regarding the allegations.

Palacios indicated she was aware of Johnson's situation and ongoing allegations. She mentioned Johnson's supervisor as well as Human Resources had been notified. The Department conducted their own internal inquiry but, was unable to substantiate the allegations.

#### Thera Johnson

Recreation Specialist 2, Parks, Recreation and Public Places  
17530 W Dixie Hwy, North Miami Beach, FL 33160.

Johnson indicated she was first employed by the County in 2000 as a Park Service Aide. After approximately 4-5 years, she moved to Ft. Pierce. During that period, Johnson was working as well as pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Parks and Recreation Management from Florida International University. Subsequently, in 2013, she returned to Miami, and was rehired by the County as a Recreation Specialist.

Johnson was interviewed regarding the new allegations. She described the ongoing struggle and constant harassment she and her family have endured since the last COE investigation. Johnson advised that her supervisor as well as Human Resources are aware of the ordeal and have been kept abreast of the situation.

On May 30, 2019, Johnson filed an Unusual Incident Report with Miami-Dade County PROS as a result of continuous calls to Ojus Park, making threats of physical harm against her.<sup>2</sup> The anonymous caller, now identified as Durianne Gordon Brown (Brown), is her husband's ex-girlfriend and since their separation, the harassment has escalated.

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<sup>2</sup> Miami-Dade PROS Unusual Incident Report is attached as part of the exhibits.



Fearing for her safety as well as her family's, Johnson reached out to the Broward Sheriff's Office as well as the Miami Gardens Police Department on several occasions to report her situation.<sup>3</sup> Ultimately, Johnson obtained a Stay Away Order against Brown on August 5, 2019.<sup>4</sup>

Johnson provided this investigator with background information on Brown, indicating she [Brown] has a substance abuse problem that culminated in losing custody of her daughter.<sup>5</sup>

Brown was arrested and released on bail, subsequently skipping bail and disappearing. Throughout that time, the harassment continued at Johnson's place of employment, to wit: contacting the County's 311 Help Center, filing false reports with several police department (as far as Hillsborough County) and, contacting Crime Stoppers. Brown additionally made numerous false claims against Johnson with the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Due to the unsustainable situation, Johnson drove to Brown's mother's home (the mom lived in the same neighborhood as Johnson's mother) and explained her predicament expressing her desperation. That visit, according to Johnson, apparently ignited the situation, resulting in Brown's aggressive and dangerous actions.

Johnson indicated Brown did not have her physical address for her and her husband, since she had listed her mother's home as her permanent address. Not having an exact address, but now having a description of her car, and knowing her mom lived in the vicinity, Brown proceeded to canvas the neighborhood until she spotted Johnson's car.

Per Johnson, the following is the chain of events that led to Brown's arrest:

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Johnson's mother, hearing a noise outside the home exited her home to find an unknown person attempting to set the car on fire. Her presence led to the perpetrator fleeing the scene. The mother attempted to go after the person, unsuccessfully. The fire was extinguished, and police were called.

On Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, Johnson's mother heard a glass breaking outside the home and as she walked out, she noticed the car was on fire and an unidentified person running from the burning car, fleeing on foot. A chase ensued, and she confronted the person, but the perpetrator managed to flee. Miami Gardens police as well as the Miami-Dade Fire Department were dispatched and the fire was extinguished, with the vehicle being declared a total loss. The mother identified Brown from a photo line-up as the person running away from the burning vehicle.

On Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Johnson and her husband were visiting her mother's home when her husband saw Brown. Brown spotted the couple and an altercation ensued, with Brown attacking Johnson and biting her left arm. The police responded and Brown was arrested and charged with battery. Subsequently, she was charged with 2<sup>nd</sup> degree arson.

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<sup>3</sup> Miami Gardens Police Department Incident/Investigation report are attached as part of the exhibits.

<sup>4</sup> Copy of the Stay Away filed by Johnson is attached as part of the exhibits.

<sup>5</sup> Sometime in July 2017, the child was attending a church service with her grandmother (Brown's mother and child's legal guardian) when Brown abducted her. An Amber Alert was issued. The child was later found and returned to the grandmother.

**Documents/Exhibits:**

- Miami Gardens Police Department Incident/Investigation Reports.
- Stay Away Order/Documents provided by Johnson.
- Documents provided by Miami-Dade County PROS.

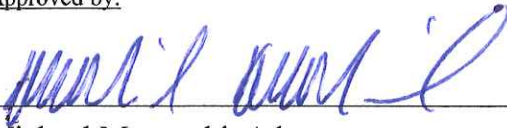
**Conclusion:**

After discussion with the Ethics Advocate it was determined that this matter would be closed with no further action. Brown has been identified as a dangerous person with zero credibility who has launched a vendetta against Johnson. There is no evidence that Johnson violated any ethics ordinances or engaged in any other wrongdoing.

  
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Nilda Olmo, COE Investigator

10/28/19  
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Date

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Murawski, Advocate

  
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José Arrojo, Executive Director

  
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Martha Perez, Staff Attorney