



Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust
Investigative Report

Investigator: Robert Steinback

Case No. PI19-06

Complainant: Anonymous (Hotline)

Subject Case Name: Mejias

Date Opened:

Date Submitted: 12/31/18

Date: 2/19/19

Allegation(s):

Anonymous Hotline caller alleges that Nelson Mejias (Mejias), Airport Operations Supervisor at Opa-locka Airport, improperly takes his County-issued vehicle home.

Relevant Law:

Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Sec. 2-11.1 (g) Exploitation of official position prohibited. *No person [covered by this section] 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.*

Investigation:

Investigator reviewed the anonymous complaint and contacted Scott Stephens, Operational Support Services Manager for the County Fleet Management Department.

Stephens stated that aside from police officers and fire rescue officers, there are 303 County officials who have authorization to take County-owned vehicles home. Stephens said that approval in each case must be granted by the Office of the County Mayor following an application process providing justification.

Nelson Mejias was granted authorization to take his County vehicle, No. 006107 Alpha, home in September 2017. His application, made by Lonny Craven (Craven), Director of Airside Operations, stated in part, "The ... General Aviation Airports (GAA) Operations Supervisors listed, hold a position considered essential by the Department and are required to immediately respond to aviation incidents/accidents throughout the Miami-Dade system of airports ... These individuals are required to be on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, all year long."

The job classification application was approved by Deputy County Mayor Jack Osterholt (Osterholt) on September 15, 2016.

Documents/Exhibit Review:

- Job classification take-home car application for the positions of Airside Division Director, Airside Section Chief and the Operations Supervisors of the General Aviation Airports, from Craven to Dan Agostino, Assistant Director, Operations, and Carlos Jose, Assistant Director, Facilities Management. Dated June 14, 2016. Application was approved and signed by Osterholt on September 15, 2016. Provided by Scott Stephens, Operational Support Services Manager for the County Fleet Management Department.
- Page 1 of the Take Home Vehicle Assignments by Department-Division, listing Nelson Mejias as Airport Operations Supervisor, as among those authorized to take home his County vehicle.

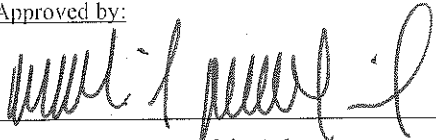
Conclusion:

After discussion with the Ethics Advocate, it was determined that that this matter should be closed with no further action.

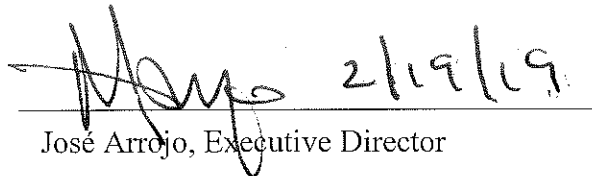


Robert Steinback, COE Investigator

Approved by:



Michael Murawski, Advocate



José Arrojo, Executive Director