

FILE COPY



CLERK OF THE BOARD  
2017 AUG 28 PM 1:10

CLERK, CIRCUIT COURT  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLA.  
11

MIAMI-DADE  
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

In re:

C 17-16

Marcos Villanueva

**PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER**

The Complainant, Jose Mejia (Mejia), a private citizen, filed this complaint against City of Sweetwater Commissioner Marcos Villanueva (Villanueva).

The complaint alleged that on two separate occasions, May 23, 2017 and June 5, 2017 at City of Sweetwater Commission meetings, Villanueva made slanderous, defamatory and untrue statements about Mejia including calling Mejia "a drug dealer" and "a criminal." Mejia's complaint does not specify any particular provision under the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission that Villanueva allegedly violated. Mejia complains that Villanueva's statements about him were "false", "slanderous" and made with "actual malice."

Mejia was, in fact, arrested in Collier County in February of 2017 and charged with possession of marijuana and possession with intent to distribute based on the quantity possessed. In 2008, Mejia was, in fact, arrested and charged with robbery in Miami-Dade County. The fact that Mejia was the beneficiary of a "withhold" of adjudication on that charge does not negate that a reasonable person could consider him to be a "criminal" even though, technically, a "withhold adjudication" is not the same as a conviction.

The Ethics Commission does not condone Villanueva's comments to Mejia, however, the complaint does not support any violations within the jurisdiction of the Miami-Dade County Ethics Commission.

On August 9, 2017, in open session, the Ethics Commission found that the complaint was not legally sufficient and dismissed it.

Therefore it is:

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that COMPLAINT C 17-16 against respondent Marco Villanueva is hereby concluded.

C17-16

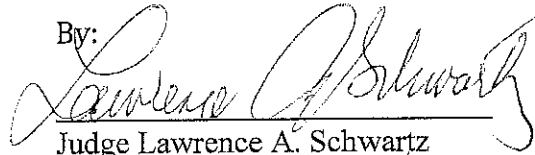
In re: Marcos Villanueva

Final Order

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics &  
Public Trust in public session on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS &  
PUBLIC TRUST

By:



Judge Lawrence A. Schwartz

Chair

Signed on :

8/25/17