

FILE COPY



**MIAMI-DADE
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST**

CLERK OF THE BOARD
2018 JAN 24 PM 1:15

CLERK, CIRCUIT & COUNTY CTS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLA.
#1

In re:

C 17-37

Feliu v Stoddard

_____ /

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

The Complainant, Horace Feliu (Feliu), a citizen of South Miami, filed this complaint against Philip Stoddard (Stoddard), the Mayor of South Miami, alleging that Stoddard, “committed fraud in misappropriation of resident/taxpayer funds, violated the public trust and has knowingly and willfully allowed for the City’s liability insurance and/or city to pay for the legal defense of his personal lawsuit.”

Stoddard’s private insurer and the City’s insurer were splitting the costs to cover Stoddard’s legal expenses related to an unresolved 2013 lawsuit filed against Stoddard by former South Miami Police Chief Orlando Martinez de Castro, wherein Martinez de Castro claims Stoddard defamed in him in a blog post.

The investigation found no evidence that Stoddard used his official position in any way to convince the City’s insurance carrier to cover half the costs of the Martinez de Castro lawsuit. The City’s insurance carrier confirmed that expense-sharing is a common occurrence where a client has coverage from more than one company. Moreover, the City’s insurance company confirmed that Stoddard played no role in the determination to split the costs with Stoddard’s personal insurance company.

Y989 7 9

On January 17, 2018, the Ethics Commission accepted the Advocate's recommendation, that there was No Probable Cause to support a violation of any matters within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission and dismissed the case.

Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C17-37 against Mayor Phillip Stoddard is concluded.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on this 17th day of January, 2018.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS
& PUBLIC TRUST

By: 

H. Jeffrey Cutler

Chairman

Signed on : 01/23/2018