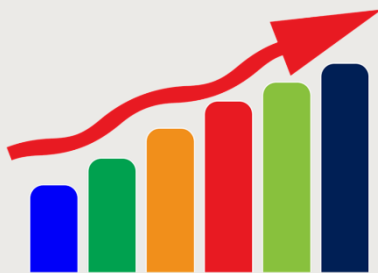


# EYE ON ETHICS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST



## Issue 1 - September 2019



### Commission on Ethics & Public Trust by the Numbers:

*In FY 2018-2019 approximately  
200 ethics opinions were provided*

## Director's Message



Dear Friends & Colleagues,

As our county and municipal governments close out the current fiscal year and begin anew with the privilege and challenge of serving the residents of Miami-Dade County that will come in FY 2019-2020, so too begins the production and distribution of Eye on Ethics, the monthly newsletter of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust.

The Ethics Commission was created and established pursuant to the Miami-Dade Home Rule Charter by a vote of the electorate in 1996. Our mission is to serve as the guardian of the public trust and to educate the public, candidates for elected office, elected and appointed officials and other public servants, as to required standards of ethical conduct, and to enforce those standards of conduct.

We are hopeful that Eye on Ethics will serve to augment and improve our outreach and education efforts throughout Miami-Dade County.

One of my assignments as the Executive Director has been to reach out to populations in our community that may not be fully informed of the Ethics Commission's public charge. This fiscal

**24 Hour**  
Complaint  
Hotline  
786-314-9560



Visit Us

### Commissioners

Nelson C. Bellido Esq., Vice Chair  
Dr. Judith Bernier  
Judge Lawrence A. Schwartz  
Jan Jacobowitz, Esq.

### Executive Director

Jose J. Arrojo, Esq.  
Advocate

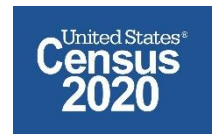
year, we will be kicking off a renewed and robust effort to reach out to **all** the citizens of Miami-Dade County.

Michael P. Murawski, Esq.

To our friends in the Haitian American community, please listen to us tomorrow afternoon at 4:15 pm as we join Frantz Laurent, on WLQY 1320AM, and take the opportunity to talk about the Ethics Commission and our work.

*Tanpri koute nou nan radio.*

Best regards,  
Jose Arrojo



## In Memoriam - H. Jeffrey Cutler, Chairman of the Miami Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust



### In Memoriam H. Jeffrey Cutler January 22, 1957 – September 20, 2019

H. Jeffrey “Jeff” Cutler, the Chairman of the Miami Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, sadly and unexpectedly, passed away on September 20, 2019.

Chairman Cutler, who was born and lived his entire life in Miami-Dade County, practiced law in this community for almost forty years, was a former Village of Pinecrest Councilman and Vice Mayor and served as the Chairman of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust. He served on the Ethics Commission as the appointee of the Miami Dade County League

of Cities.

Mr. Cutler was first appointed to the Ethics Commission in 2015 and was elected its Chairman in 2017. His leadership on the Ethics Commission was marked by his sense of fairness and dedication to ethical governance and a concurrent commitment to insuring that all parties engaged with the Ethics Commission were afforded due process and the opportunity to be heard. Amongst the staff members that served the Ethics Commission, he will be remembered for his unpretentious and kind manner and among his colleagues on the Commission, for his collegiality.

## September 2019 Ethics - Commission Actions



The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust took the following actions at its monthly public meeting held on September 11, 2019.

### **Ethics Commission Agrees to Consider “Bright-Line Rule” Opinion Regarding Voting Conflicts for Elected City and County Officials**

**RQO 19-04** : The Ethics Commission agreed to further consider a recommended formal ethics opinion that would specify that city and county officials that hold certain positions with entities have a per se or automatic prohibited voting conflict that would prevent them from participating or voting on any matter that might directly or indirectly affect the entity. The proposed opinion arose out of a preliminary investigation of votes occurring in Key Biscayne, Florida.

### **Ethics Commission Issued a Letter of Instruction to North Miami Mayor Phillippe Bien-Aime in Matter Relating to Financial Disclosure Irregularities**

**C19-26-05** : The Ethics Commission, having previously found probable cause that North Miami Mayor Phillippe Bien-Aime failed to report accurate information on his Financial Disclosure Forms but agreed to dismiss the Complaint with the Issuance of a

Letter of Instruction. Mayor Bien-Aime impresses on the Mayor the importance of compliance with the Ethics Code and the filing of complete and accurate Financial disclosures.

### Ethics Commission Found Probable Cause in Exploitation Case Against Former Opa Locka Mayor and Commissioner John Riley

**C19-05-02** : The Ethics Commission found probable cause that former Opa Locka Mayor and Commissioner John Riley violated the exploitation of official position and financial disclosure sections of the County Ethics Code by allegedly interfering with police officers responding to landlord tenant matter and failing to disclose his financial relationship with the building's owners. The matter now proceeds to hearing.

## Educating the Community / Upcoming Events

**Ethical Governance Day 2019:** Wednesday, October 16th, 2019 is the day that the Commission on Ethics partners with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to once again place hundreds of civic leaders into local high school classrooms to address students on the importance of civic participation and engagement as a means of promoting better and more ethical government.

The upcoming year of 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote. The passage marked the largest expansion of democracy in the history of our country. This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate a milestone of American democracy and to explore its relevance to issues of equal rights today and the guarantee of the right to vote for all citizens.

For more information regarding Ethical Governance Day, click [here](#) to visit our website or email us at [rodzand@miamidade.gov](mailto:rodzand@miamidade.gov)

**Miami-Dade Lobbyist Training** : Anyone who registers as a lobbyist for Miami-Dade County, Miami and certain other municipalities must undergo training provided by the Ethics Commission. You must create an account with the Ethics Commission, then sign up for a class and pay by credit card IN ADVANCE through this [system](#) .

**Lobbyist Refresher Course:** Lobbyists who have completed the initial Ethics Course and have continuously registered as a lobbyist thereafter shall be required to complete a refresher Ethics Course every two years to meet requirements of Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami. Date of completion of most recent lobbyist ethics training course (original or refresher) is required. You must create an account with the Ethics Commission, then sign up for a class and pay IN ADVANCE on this [system](#).

**Advisory Board Training:** This training will be held on the third Wednesday of each month. Classes will alternate between 8-9:30 a.m. and 12-1:30 p.m. every other month. You must register before attending the class.



## Did You Know?

*County and city officials and employees may occasionally find themselves unsure of a proper course of action and whether the Ethics Code applies. If the employee or official believes that a conflict of interest could be created by taking a certain course of action, or is simply unsure, then that person may request guidance or an opinion from the Ethics Commission.*