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Summary of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust Meeting Held on July 8, 2020

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust held a virtual Commission Meeting on July 8, 2020 by way of the ZOOM platform. The following actions took place:

Executive Director's Report

Commission on Ethics Resolution 20-02 was presented and unanimously passed establishing a 90-day grace period for county employees to file the Outside Employment Statement.

Executive Director Jose Arrojo introduced a proposed request for formal opinion from the Commission regarding prohibitions on public comment by public officials with a voting conflict on the matter relating to the conflict.

No Probable Cause Found in Case Involving North Miami Beach Commissioner

C 20-18-04: The Ethics Commission unanimously found No Probable Cause that North Miami Beach Commissioner Michael Joseph violated the Truth in Government Section of the Citizen's Bill of Rights. The Commission had previously found at their June meeting, No Probable Cause that Commissioner Joseph violated the Public Records provision of the Citizens' Bill of Rights. Both allegations had been brought by the same complainant.

Complaint Dismissed Against Director of the City of North Miami Parks Department

C 20-14-02: The Ethics Commission found no Probable Cause that City of North Miami Parks Director Derrick Corker was engaged in any business with the City of North Miami that employs him, and the complaint was dismissed. However, the Commission did find Probable Cause that Mr. Corker did not obtain written approval as required by Section 2-316 (k)(1)(c) of the City's ethics code and also found that Mr. Corker was not in compliance with Section 2-316 (k)(2) for the non-disclosure of income in years 2018 and 2019, however, since the violations were insubstantial, they dismissed the complaint.

The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of training, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.