

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST



In Re: Paule Villard

C 22-13-03

PUBLIC REPORT AND FINAL ORDER

On or about March 3, 2022, Complainant, Stephanie Kienzle (Kienzle), filed this complaint against Paule Villard (Villard), Commissioner of the City of North Miami Beach, alleging Villard voted on a Living Wage Ordinance and a tuition Reimbursement Resolution when she had a voting conflict, in violation of Section 2-11.1(d) of the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance (County Ethics Code) because Villard’s daughter was an intern with the City at the time of the voting and arguably benefitted from the actions taken by the board.

Legal sufficiency exists where the complaint adequately alleges a violation of an ordinance within the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission, committed by an individual within the authority of the Ethics Commission, based substantially on the personal knowledge of the Complainant and filed with the Ethics Commission within three years of the alleged violation.

The facts alleged in the complaint fail to establish that Villard met any of the three scenarios which would establish a voting conflict: First, Villard did not have a prohibited relationship (director, partner, of counsel, consultant, employee, fiduciary or beneficiary) with a person or entity affected by the vote (s); Secondly, Villard did not have an enumerated relationship (stockholder, bondholder, debtor or creditor) with a person affected by the vote and the vote(s) would not affect Villard in a manner distinct manner than would affect the public (city employees)generally; and, lastly, Villard did not directly or indirectly profit or was enhanced by the actions of the board because although her daughter’s internship wage would be impacted by the vote on the Living Wage Ordinance, her daughter would not be impacted in a *special or unique manner* different from the other 547 North Miami Beach employees. See INQ 20-11

Further, regard the Tuition Reimbursement Resolution, Villard’s daughter did not qualify for tuition reimbursement as provided in the Resolution therefore, there is no voting conflict present.

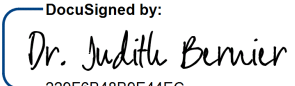
On April 13, 2022, the Ethics Commission unanimously dismissed the complaint for lack of legal sufficiency.

Wherefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that COMPLAINT C22-13-03 against the Respondent is hereby dismissed.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics & Public Trust in public session on April 13, 2022.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST

By: DocuSigned by:

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Dr. Judith Bernier, Chair

4/19/2022

Signed: _____

Cc: Respondent and Counsel; Complainant

