



Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
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To: The Honorable Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Felix Jimenez, Inspector General

Date: November 8, 2024

Subject: Conviction of Suspended Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jose (Joe) A. Martinez, Ref. IG17-0019-I

On Thursday, November 7, 2024, a Miami-Dade County jury convicted suspended Miami-Dade County District 11 Commissioner Joe Martinez on charges of corruption following an investigation conducted by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in conjunction with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Unit. Commissioner Martinez was found guilty of one count of Unlawful Compensation (a second-degree felony) and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Unlawful Compensation (a third-degree felony).

Arrested in August 2022, Commissioner Martinez had been facing charges stemming from a scheme to use his official position to benefit himself. The investigation found that after his re-election to the Board of County Commissioners in 2016, then Commissioner Martinez sponsored a revision to the Code of Miami-Dade County. The draft legislation would have assisted the owners of a supermarket and strip mall battling repeated fines from the County due to the number of cargo containers they could legally maintain on the property.

In the complex scheme, Commissioner Martinez not only took \$15,000 in payments from the supermarket owner but enlisted the strip mall owner's assistance to negotiate factoring financing for the benefit of Centurion Security Group, LLC (Centurion), his personal employer. The OIG investigation found that Centurion was having trouble paying its employees, including then Commissioner Martinez. Although the code revision was withdrawn, the criminal act was completed as the law does "...not require that the exercise of influence or violation of a public duty... for which a pecuniary benefit was given...was accomplished." Section 838.016 Florida Statute.

The trial commenced on October 28, 2024, and concluded yesterday evening with the jury returning a verdict of guilty on both counts. The suspended commissioner faces potential prison time at his sentencing, which is anticipated to be scheduled next year.

cc: Jimmy Morales, Chief Operations Officer, Office of the Mayor
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
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