



Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics

Commissioners

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In Re: Laurie LaVerriere

C11-021

Public Report and Final Order of Dismissal

COMPLAINANT, Suzette Peccoelli Rodriguez, a former employee of the City of Boynton Beach, filed the above-referenced COMPLAINT on October 14, 2011, alleging possible ethics violations involving RESPONDENT Laurie LaVerriere, the Interim City Manager of Boynton Beach.

The COMPLAINT contended that Laurie LaVerriere used her position and authority as Interim City Manager to attempt to have COMPLAINANT enter into an agreement known as a "Last Chance Employment Contract," to remain employed with the City, but that would allow for her termination without appeal for any further rules violations over the next three (3) years. The COMPLAINANT states that this agreement violates her rights as an employee regarding the appeal of such a termination. After failing to enter into the agreement, COMPLAINANT was terminated from her City employment for an undisclosed rule violation.

Pursuant to Chapter 2, Article V, Division 8, Section 2-260.6¹ of the Palm Beach County Code, jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission extends to violations "committed on or after the effective date of the ordinances." The City of Boynton Beach voluntarily agreed to fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission on Ethics as of October 19, 2010. The allegations contained in the COMPLAINT involve activities alleged to have occurred on or after October 19, 2010.

¹ Chapter 2, Article V, Division 8, Section 2-260.6. Prospective Jurisdiction: "The Commission on Ethics shall be empowered to consider alleged violations within its jurisdiction committed on or after the effective date of the ordinances set forth in Section 2-258(a), as each may be amended from time to time. Any alleged violation committed before the effective date of any such ordinance or amendment shall be governed by the applicable law in effect at the time of the alleged violation."

The COMPLAINANT makes no allegation nor does she present any evidence that indicates Ms. LaVerriere or any other person or entity listed under §2-443(a)(1-7) received any special financial benefit by offering her this agreement in lieu of termination. Nor does she allege any facts to indicate that the offer by Ms. LaVerriere to enter into this agreement was a "corrupt" misuse of office. Assuming that all "facts" as presented by COMPLAINANT are true, the offer to enter into this last chance employment contract would not be in violation of the code of ethics. The Ethics Commission DISMISSED the COMPLAINT on January 4, 2012, due to LACK OF LEGAL SUFFICIENCY.

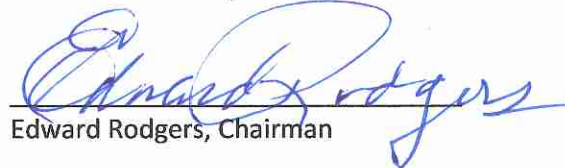
Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT the COMPLAINT against RESPONDENT Laurie LaVerriere is hereby DISMISSED.

DONE AND ORDERED by the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics in public session on January 4, 2012.

Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics

By:


Edward Rodgers, Chairman