



Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics

Commissioners

Edward Rodgers, *Chair*
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Executive Director

Alan S. Johnson

In Re: Dawn Jones

C11-024

Public Report and Final Order of Dismissal

COMPLAINANT, LaDonna Booth, filed the above-referenced COMPLAINT on November 29, 2011, alleging a possible ethics violation involving RESPONDENT Dawn Jones, Procurement Coordinator, Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (PBWUD).

The COMPLAINT alleges that Ms. Jones, violated Palm Beach County's Nepotism Policy by requesting her daughter Natalie Jones be employed as a temporary employee at the PBCWU Procurement Section under her direct supervision.

Pursuant to Chapter 2, Article V, Division 8, Section 2-258(a)¹ of the Palm Beach County Code, the Commission on Ethics is empowered to enforce the county code of ethics. Nepotism is prohibited pursuant to Article XIII, sec. 2-445 of the Palm Beach County Code.²

On December 28, 2011, after initial inquiry into the matter, the COMPLAINT was determined by staff to be LEGALLY INSUFFICIENT, and presented to the Commission on Ethics on January 4, 2012 with a recommendation of dismissal as LEGALLY INSUFFICIENT.

¹ Article V, Division 8, section 2-258. Powers and duties. (a) The commission on ethics shall be authorized to exercise such powers and shall be required to perform such duties as are hereinafter provided. The commission on ethics shall be empowered to review, interpret, render advisory opinions and enforce the;

- (1) County Code of Ethics;
- (2) County Post-Employment Ordinance, and
- (3) County Lobbyist Registration Ordinance.

² Article XIII, sec.2-445. Anti-nepotism law.

An official may not appoint, employ, promote, advance, or advocate for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement in or to a position in the county or municipality as applicable in which the official is serving or over which the official exercises jurisdiction or control, any individual who is a relative or domestic partner of the official. An individual may not be appointed, employed, promoted, or advanced in or to a position in the county or a municipality if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement has been advocated by an official, serving in or exercising jurisdiction or control over the county or municipality as appropriate, who is a relative or domestic partner of the individual or if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement is made by a collegial body of which a relative of the individual is a member.

The factual basis underlying this COMPLAINT had been previously addressed in C11-019 and C11-020 with Inquiry made and NO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY found in INQUIRY AN11-023.

The Commission on Ethics reviewed the memorandum of inquiry and determined that the COMPLAINANT has no personal knowledge or independent evidence that the RESPONDENT, Dawn Jones, advocated for the employment of her daughter in violation of sec. 2-445 of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics and DISMISSED the COMPLAINT on January 4, 2012, due to NO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY.

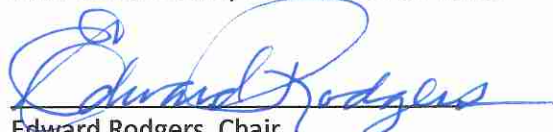
Therefore it is:

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED THAT the COMPLAINT against RESPONDENT Dawn Jones 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, Chair