



BROWARD OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ethical Misconduct by Hallandale Beach City Commissioner Anthony Sanders

The OIG has concluded its investigation into allegations that Hallandale Beach city commissioner and community redevelopment agency (CRA) director Anthony Sanders failed to disclose payments that Palms Community Action Coalition, Inc. (PCAC), an organization which he voted to receive thousands of dollars in city and developer funding, made to him and his son. As described in our [final report](#), we found that Commissioner Sanders engaged in a pattern of misconduct that violated Florida ethics laws, the Hallandale Beach city charter, and the Broward code of ethics for elected officials.

We determined that, so long as the public was aware of his and his wife's relationships with community-based organizations Eagle's Wings, Palms of Hallandale Beach Weed and Seed, and PCAC, Commissioner Sanders refrained from voting on matters that could benefit those organizations. But when their connections appeared to end in late 2012, Commissioner Sanders resumed voting on items that directly and indirectly benefited PCAC. What the public did not know was that, from January 2013 through December 2015, PCAC paid the commissioner's wife and two sons approximately \$7,588 for consulting and employment and paid Higher Vision Ministries, the church that employed the commissioner and which he controlled, approximately \$31,100, purportedly for transporting PCAC trainees to classes.

During this same time period, Commissioner Sanders voted to approve direct city funding to PCAC in the amount of approximately \$202,450. He also voted to approve \$9,869,268 in development contracts that benefited PCAC by approximately \$695,870. On the same day he voted to benefit two developers and PCAC, PCAC wrote a \$2,000 "Donation/Pastor's Appreciation" check to Higher Vision Ministries, and he solicited one of the developers to give a \$600 contribution to the church. The other developer gave a \$500 contribution to the church two days later. When PCAC terminated its agreement with Higher Vision Ministries against Commissioner Sanders's will, PCAC lost all city-facilitated funding.

In accordance with our charter mandate, we are referring this matter to the Florida Commission on Ethics and the Hallandale Beach city commission for whatever action those entities deem appropriate, and we are filing against Commissioner Sanders a Broward County ethics complaint to be tried by an administrative hearing officer.

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