



Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
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To: Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
Honorable Jean Monestime, Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General

Date: September 22, 2015

Subject: Arrest of Individual Seeking to Manipulate Community Council Elections; Ref. IG14-32

David Alberto Carcache (Carcache), a would-be lobbyist, was arrested and criminally charged today for submitting various false and fraudulent campaign documents on behalf of three Community Council candidates. Carcache (also known as David Carcache-Guzman and/or David Guzman) solicited individuals to run for the Community Council positions, which, when successfully elected and installed into their positions, would provide the connections necessary for Carache's lobbying and consulting business. These individuals, however, were not qualified to run for the Community Council seats that they sought.

Acting on information received from the Miami-Dade County Elections Department, the OIG working with the State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Task Force in a joint investigation uncovered that Carcache solicited three unqualified candidates to run for the August 2014 Community Council elections. Candidates wishing to serve in any of the ten (10) Community Councils in unincorporated Miami-Dade County must be registered voters and live within the area they seek to represent. The three candidates, Daniel Diaz for Community Council #12 Sub-Area #123; Jesus Salas for Community Council #11, Sub-Area #115; and Mauricio Rodriguez-Varela for Community Council #11, Sub-Area #113, did not reside within the areas they sought to represent. Carcache controlled the candidates' qualification process by filing false and fraudulent documents with the Elections Department and creating and controlling the candidates' email accounts.

Carcache's attempt to undermine Miami-Dade's Community Council system may have succeeded, but for the investigation. Candidate Mauricio Rodriguez-Varela and candidate Daniel Diaz won their elections to Community Council #11/113 and Community Council #12/123, respectively. As a result of the investigation, the winning candidates have resigned and Jesus Antonio Salas, the third candidate, withdrew prior to the election.

The OIG is grateful to the Miami-Dade Elections Department for their cooperation and assistance during the investigation. Attached is the press release from the State Attorney's Office with additional information about today's arrest and the criminal charges filed.

Attachment

cc: Alina Hudak, Deputy Mayor
Penelope Townsley, Supervisor of Elections
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services Department
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor



KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE

STATE ATTORNEY

**ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOULD-BE LOBBYIST ARRESTED FOR CAMPAIGN FRAUD

Miami (September 22, 2015) - As a result of a joint investigation by the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Task Force and the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General, David Alberto Carcache (Carcache), a would-be lobbyist and political consultant, was arrested and charged with:

- **2 counts False Swearing (3rd Degree Felony)**
- **1 count Aiding, Abetting, or Advising in the Violation of the Election Code (3rd Degree Felony)**
- **5 counts Falsifying Records (1st Degree Misdemeanor)**

Carcache, also known as David Carcache-Guzman and David Guzman, represented himself as a lobbyist/consultant assisting various candidates running for several Miami-Dade Community Council positions during the August 26, 2014, elections.

“A young man’s goal of creating his own business is something we usually encourage,” commented State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. “However, Mr. Carcache’s business approach of undermining Miami-Dade’s Community Council system, corrupting our election process, has led to his arrest. The investigation by my Public Corruption Task Force and the Miami-Dade Office of the Inspector General uncovered evidence of numerous fraudulent campaign documents and transactions. Thanks to their efforts, someone working to taint our election system has been thwarted.”

The investigation began when a resident of Community Council #12 received a letter from the Miami-Dade Department of Elections providing information to new candidates. However, no one at the address was actually running for election. The resident contacted authorities, initiating an extensive investigation which identified Carcache and his scheme to solicit and control candidates running for Community Council seats. Having enough politicians beholden to him on various Community Council seats would allow Carcache to effectively sell his (unregistered) lobbying and consulting services. Carcache was undeterred by the fact that some of his candidates were unqualified for election since they did not reside within specified Community Council boundaries.

FOR FURTHER
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Would-Be Lobbyist Arrested For Campaign Fraud

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“All politics is local’ a phrase taken to heart by Carcache who sought to manipulate and peddle his influence in our County government. But for this investigation, there would be three elected officials in office, being controlled by the defendant. The OIG will continue to provide oversight of the election process and robustly investigate all allegations of election fraud as it pertains to every level of Miami-Dade County government,” stated Mary T. Cagle, Miami-Dade County Inspector General.

The investigation found that Carcache prepared fraudulent candidate qualifying documents, set up and controlled candidates’ email accounts, and submitted fraudulent campaign treasurer finance reports. At Carcache’s direction, thousands of dollars in campaign expenses were paid in checks or money orders payable to Carcache’s sister and mother. Carcache submitted, or caused to be submitted, numerous documents containing false information and falsely sworn documents to the Miami-Dade Elections Department in connection with the campaigns of three Community Council candidates. Two candidates, Mauricio Rodriguez-Varela and Daniel Diaz won their positions to Community Council #11/113 and Community Council #12/123, respectively. They have resigned as a result of the investigation. The third candidate, Jesus Antonio Salas, withdrew from the race prior to the election.

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