




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 Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Felix Jimenez, Inspector General 

Date: September 15, 2025

Subject: Former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jose (Joe) A. Martinez Sentenced,
Ref. IG17-0019-I

Former Miami-Dade County District 11 Commissioner Joe Martinez who was found guilty by a jury last November on corruption charges was sentenced today to 34.5 months Florida state prison. Former 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) following a joint investigation conducted by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Unit.

Mr. Martinez, who was arrested in August 2022, was found guilty of charges relating to a scheme to use his official position to benefit himself. The complex scheme uncovered by the investigation found that following his re-election in 2016, former Commissioner Martinez sponsored legislation benefitting two constituents. One constituent from whom he took \$15,000 in payments and the other from whom he enlisted assistance to negotiate factoring financing for the benefit of his personal employer. At the time, the employer was having trouble paying its employees, including then Commissioner Martinez. Although the legislation was withdrawn, the criminal act was complete as the law does "...not require that the exercise of influence or violation of a public duty...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.

Former Commissioner Martinez was granted bond pending an appeal of the conviction.

cc: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office
Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant, County Attorney's Office
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Ignacio J. Vazquez, Jr. Executive Director, Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
Ofelia Tamayo, Director, Internal Compliance Department
Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board