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FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL
Marta M. Villares-Schertiz
NOV 10 10 23 AM '99

November 9, 1999

FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. John R. Velasquez, Jr.
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

RE: MUR 4934

Dear Mr. Velasquez:

The undersigned attorney has been retained by Dr. Carlos Rodríguez-Mateo to represent him in the proceedings pending before this agency as a result of the complaint filed by Anibal Acevedo-Vilá involving Congressman Carlos Romero Barceló. Accordingly, a Statement of Designation of Counsel is attached to this document which serves as the answer to the complaint. The complaint was received on October 26, 1999.

The gist of the allegations filed by Mr. Acevedo Vilá relate to a supposed contribution of \$175,000.00 made by Dr. Rodríguez Mateo to Congressman Romero Barceló through his aide, Mr. Domingo García. It is alleged that the contribution was made as an expression of gratitude for the intervention of Congressman Romero Barceló on behalf of Dr. Rodríguez Mateo in the transaction where the latter was awarded the bid to purchase the Center for Diagnostic and Treatment in Salinas.

First of all, it should be pointed out that the complainant has no personal knowledge of the facts asserted in the complaint. He relies on some statements issued by an individual who has a personal vendetta against Dr. Rodríguez Mateo. The sole motive behind the allegations of Mr. Andrés Sánchez is to try to advance a complaint that Mr. Sánchez has filed against Dr. Rodríguez Mateo and against the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Attorney General. Apparently, Mr. Sánchez feels that by submitting this kind of false statements he can advance his case as well as embarrass Dr. Rodríguez Mateo in order to hurt him in his race for Mayor of Salinas.

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It is uncontroverted that Dr. Rodríguez Mateo has made political contributions to Congressman Romero Barceló. However, those donations have always been within the limits imposed by the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 ("FECA"). Moreover, those donations have always been fully reported by the Congressman's campaign committee, also known as Comité Elección de Carlos Romero-Barceló al Congreso, Inc. (FEC committee ID No. C00307306).

On thing should be very clear, Dr. Rodríguez Mateo emphatically denies ever giving the amount of \$175,000.00 to the Congressman's campaign committee. As stated before, his contributions have been within the limits established by FECA. (See statement attached).

At the same time, it is ridiculous that the alleged contribution was made as an expression of gratitude for the Congressman's intervention in the bidding process for the medical facility in Salinas. The bid was awarded to the group (led by Dr. Rodríguez Mateo) that offered the highest bid as well as a guarantee that it would retain all of the employees that were employed at the time in the facility.¹ Therefore, there should be not doubt that Dr. Rodríguez Mateo needed, nor used, the help of Congressman Romero-Barceló in obtaining the bid to purchase the medical facility.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the complaint filed against Congressman Romero-Barceló, and the allegations regarding Dr. Rodríguez Mateo, be dismissed.

Cordially,



Luis R. Pérez Giusti

Enclosures

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At this time we do not posses any evidence of the proceedings before the Government Development Bank, the entity that awarded the bids, although they could be obtained by the General Counsel. However, we have learned of these details through various press reports.

STATEMENT OF CARLOS RODRIGUEZ MATEO

I, Carlos Rodríguez Mateo, single, of legal age, medical doctor, and a resident of Salinas, Puerto Rico hereby declare as follows:

1. That my personal circumstances are the ones described above.
2. I have reviewed the declaration made by Andres Sánchez Delgado which have been submitted by Anibal Acevedo Vila to the Federal Election Commission.
3. I am a medical doctor and President of Med-Sur, Inc. and of Sur-Med, Inc.
4. I know Mr. Sánchez because he is a friend of my family. Starting on or about December of 1996, Mr. Sánchez began doing some work for me as an independent contractor, but was never hired as a regular employee. Accordingly, Mr. Sánchez on occasions would act as a messenger for which I would pay him for that particular task.
5. I never asked or ordered Mr. Sánchez Delgado to provide cash or anything of value to Domingo García Camacho.
6. I never asked or ordered Mr. Sánchez Delgado to provide cash or anything of value to Congressman Carlos Romero-Barceló.
7. The only contribution I have made to Congressman Romero-Barceló's campaigns have been within the contribution limits of the Federal Election Campaign Act and have been disclosed in reports filed by the Congressman's campaign committee.
8. I never sought any improper influence from Congressman Romero-Barceló in the course of my efforts to purchase the Center for Diagnosis and Treatment.
9. I understand that I won the bidding to purchase the Center for Diagnosis and Treatment because my offer included a commitment to save the jobs of facility employees and because it was the highest bid.
10. On October 5, 1999, Mr. Sánchez Delgado filed a lawsuit against me and has leveled a variety of charges against elected officials in Puerto Rico, including the Governor, the Attorney General, and Congressman Romero-Barceló. Those claims are entirely false.

CRM

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In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 8th day of November, 1999.



CARLOS RODRIGUEZ MATEO

Affidavit Number

69

Sworn and signed before me by Carlos Rodríguez Mateo, of legal circumstances stated above, whom I know personally, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on November 8, 1999.





NOTARY PUBLIC

STATEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF COUNSEL

MUR

4934

NAME OF COUNSEL:

Luis R. Pérez-Giusti

ADDRESS:

Mignucci & Pérez-Giusti

Bolívia 33 - Suite 530

San Juan, P.R. 00917

TELEPHONE:

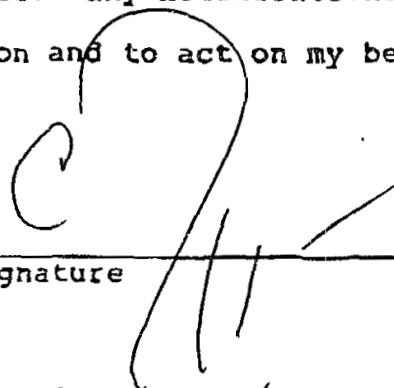
(787) 754-8300

The above-named individual is hereby designated as my
counsel and is authorized to receive any notifications and other
communications from the Commission and to act on my behalf before
the Commission.

Date

11/9/99

Signature



RESPONDENT'S NAME:

Dr. Carlos Rodríguez-Mateo

ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 389

Guayama, P.R. 00785

HOME PHONE:

BUSINESS PHONE:

(787) 864-8283