



STATE ATTORNEY

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
E. R. GRAHAM BUILDING
1350 N.W. 12TH AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136-2111

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
STATE ATTORNEY

TELEPHONE (305) 547-0100

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Ed Griffith 305-547-0535

Former West Miami Mayor Convicted In Ethics Violation Case

Sought to Have City Remedy Cell Phone Charges

Miami (July 21, 2010) – Last night , a criminal court jury convicted former City of West Miami Mayor Cesar R. Carasa of 1 count of Exploitation of Official Position, in violation of Miami-Dade County Code. The jury convicted Mr. Carasa of having directed or requested City of West Miami officials to have Sprint to waive or reduce cell phone charges presented to the City for which he was personally liable.

The criminal investigation was jointly conducted by the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office and the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust after allegations surfaced that then-Mayor Carasa had run up approximately \$70,000 of telephone charges on his city issued cell phone intended only for city business. When faced with the prospect of paying such a large bill, he sought the city's direct intervention with the telephone company. This criminal violation of the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code carries a misdemeanor criminal penalty.

"It is bad enough for a public official to use his city tools, in this case his cell phone, for personal use, But trying to have the city eliminate a personal debt only compounded this misuse of office and justifiably outraged the people of the City of West Miami," commented Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. "The highly professional work by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust's investigators laid a solid foundation for the prosecution of this case."

"Due to the collective efforts of the State Attorney's Office and the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, an unethical public official has been convicted of abusing his power," commented Robert Meyers, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust. "This conviction should serve as a reminder to all local public servants that intentionally violating local ethics laws may



Please Recycle

result in criminal prosecution, in addition to fines, public reprimand and loss of respect.”

State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle is available for further comments to the media. Please call 305-547-0535 to schedule your visit.

###



Please Recycle