



***BROWARD COUNTY PBA
DAILY CLIPS***

January 26, 2017

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Fired city manager sues Hallandale Beach

BYLINE: Susannah Bryan

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-city-manager-sues-hallandale-20170125-story.html>

STORY: Daniel Rosemond filed a lawsuit Wednesday claiming he was wrongfully terminated as city manager last month.

Commissioners voted 3-2 to fire Rosemond for cause after holding a public hearing Dec. 28, nearly a month after suspending him from his \$180,400-a-year job.

Vice Mayor Keith London said Rosemond had used a city credit card to buy an airline ticket for his daughter and entered into a contract that exceeded his \$25,000 spending limit.

If he had been fired without cause, Rosemond would have received five months of severance pay.

His lawsuit seeks more than \$15,000 in damages and demands that the record be changed to show he was fired without cause.

Hallandale Beach spokesman Peter Dobens said City Hall does not comment on pending litigation.

MEDIA OUTLET: Sun Sentinel

HEADLINE: Broward Health board puts off CEO search, discusses lawsuit

BYLINE: David Fleshler

LINK: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-broward-health-ceo-update-20170125-story.html>

STORY: The Broward Health board on Wednesday continued to grapple with the fallout from the suicide of its chief executive and the firing of his replacement.

The board voted to postpone the search for a new CEO to lead the public hospital district and then went into closed session to discuss legal strategy for the lawsuit filed by former interim CEO Pauline Grant.

The board fired her last December after General Counsel Lynn Barrett organized a kickback investigation of her by an outside law firm. Grant denied the allegations and filed suit, accusing Barrett and the board of violating the state's open-meetings law to oust her.

The lawsuit is pending in Broward Circuit Court. The Broward State Attorney's Office is also investigating whether there was an an open-meeting violation.

The board's search for a new CEO was originally set in motion a year ago, when then-CEO Dr. Nabil El Sanadi committed suicide.

Board member Christopher Ure, who had been leading the CEO search, said he wanted to postpone the search because so much had changed about Broward Health's management needs over the past few months.

"I feel there's always a moving target as to what it is this district needs," Ure said. "Unfortunately, in the last several months, there's been no shortage of issues that have arisen."

He referred to a report by an outside monitor appointed to assess Broward Health's compliance with an agreement signed to settle federal charges of illegal payments to doctors. The report painted a harsh picture of an organization with deep management and cultural problems.

In the meantime, Broward Health plans to hire a consulting company to assess its current management issues, which Ure said would give the organization a better idea of what to look for in a CEO.

Interim CEO Kevin Fusco said he is negotiating with a company to do a management assessment of Broward Health. The work will take about 60 days, he said. After that, he said, the board can hire that firm or another one to implement the suggestions.

Ure said he wanted the assessment in hand to have a better idea what to look for in a CEO.

Two finalists for the CEO job remain — Timothy J. Harlin, chief operating and acceleration officer of Denver Health and Hospital Authority, and Brett S. McClung, executive vice president of Texas Health Resources.

John Mestepey, managing director of the Miami office of the executive search firm DiversifiedSearch, said both remain interested in the job, despite controversies over Broward Health reported in the media and hospital trade publications.

Broward Health runs five hospitals and various other facilities that serve Broward County north of Griffin Road. Legally known as the North Broward Hospital District, Broward Health is partially funded by property taxes and is run by a board appointed by Gov. Rick Scott.

MEDIA OUTLET: Florida Bulldog

HEADLINE: Hallandale Beach halts advertising in local newspaper where mayor is a columnist

BYLINE: William Gjebre

LINK: <http://www.floridabulldog.org/2017/01/hallandale-beach-halts-advertising-local-newspaper-tied-mayor-cooper/>

STORY: Hallandale Beach city commissioners have pulled the plug on city advertising in the local Sun Times newspaper featuring articles by Mayor Joy Cooper that drew fire from commission colleagues as “propaganda” for the mayor.

Cooper used the platform regularly before and after the weekly newspaper received a favorable — and controversial — \$50,000 loan from the city’s Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). The Sun Times, according to city documents, has been paid nearly \$400,000 in city advertising to publicize events since 2003, most of the money coming after the loan was made during the 2008-2009 budget year.

The Florida Bulldog published a story about the loan, which later became a matter of interest to the Broward Inspector General’s Office in its 2012 probe. While the IG stated the Hallandale Beach CRA had “grossly mismanaged” millions of dollars, tallied \$2.2 million in questionable expenditures and made inappropriate loans and grants to local businesses and non-profits, there was no finding of wrongdoing in the city’s Sun Times loan.

“The whole thing is a propaganda paper for the mayor,” said Commissioner Michele Lazarow, who moved at the Dec. 7 meeting to halt funding immediately.

While not voted on, the measure gained consensus support from the new majority of the five-member commission, and city staff said it would not place any more advertisements in the newspaper. Cooper had left the meeting before the item came forward.

In the past, the newspaper had the support of Cooper and commissioners who backed her. Lazarow, Vice Mayor Keith London, a long-time Sun Times critic, and newly elected Commissioner Anabelle Taub successfully pushed the item to halt further advertising.

“The Sun Times is the mayor’s pulpit or podium for her to spin the truth,” Lazarow said at the meeting. “It has become a political rag during the political season.” Making matters worse, she added, the newspaper was unfair by not accepting or allowing “rebuttal.”

“I’m appalled that city funds go to the Sun Times,” Taub said at the meeting. “We should not fund the mayor’s political propaganda and personal vendettas and attacks.”

Taub said she was incensed during her recent election campaign when the Sun Times printed personal information about her that “could be used to commit fraud on me.”

“They have a one-sided view of city hall,” said London, adding that a reporter from the newspaper rarely attends a city commission meeting.

Mayor: ‘I will continue writing’

“They are entitled to their opinion,” Cooper told a reporter in response to the criticism from her commission colleagues. “I report on city business. I will continue writing. Everything I write is edited by an editor and it’s their choice to use it.”

Cooper began writing for the Sun Times in 2003, the year she became mayor. Her opinion piece last week was about Dr. Martin Luther King and political protest.

Sun Times officials said they were unfazed by the funding cutoff. “The commission has every right to do so,” said Craig Farquhar, president of the South Florida Digest, which publishes the Sun Times. As for the accusation that the newspaper has been a forum for the mayor’s propaganda, he said, “That’s their political opinion.”

The money paid by the city to the Sun Times, Farquhar added, “was to promote city events.”

City records showed that between 2003 and 2008, the city paid the Sun Times about \$32,000 for advertising – an average of about \$6,400 a year. But the relationship changed the following year.

That’s when the Sun Times became the first city business to receive a loan under a new program, funded through the CRA, to retain and to assist firms having financial difficulties. It received a 10-year \$50,000 loan, with half of it forgiven, to be paid at two percent interest; the loan balance of approximately \$7,500 is expected to be paid off in July 2019.

What raised questions about the newspaper’s financial problems was that Farquhar and another official of the newspaper, Cecile Hines, were each paid an average of over \$200,000 in 2007 and in 2008, the years before the Sun Times received the city loan.

City advertising in the Sun Times, after the loan approval, also began to escalate. From 2008-2009 until the end of 2016, the city paid the newspaper \$362,929, averaging more than \$45,000 yearly during the past eight years, according to city documents.

MEDIA OUTLET: FOX Miami (Channel 7)

HEADLINE: Family of man killed by Miami-Dade Police officer files lawsuit

BYLINE: FOX Miami

LINK: <http://wsvn.com/news/local/family-of-man-killed-by-miami-dade-police-officer-files-lawsuit/>

STORY: NORTHWEST MIAMI-DADE, FLA. (WSVN) - A family is fighting for justice following a fatal confrontation between a police officer and a man in Northwest Miami-Dade.

It's been more than a year since Junior Prosper was killed in a Miami-Dade Police-involved shooting. Police said they tried to use a Taser to try to subdue Prosper, but he went on the attack, so they were then forced to fire upon him.

"I've been holding out for too long, too long," said his widow Edeiline Prosper, "and I just can't anymore ... He was just working and something went wrong that night. They took his life away and for no reason at all."

Wednesday, Edeiline Prosper's team of lawyers filed a federal civil rights lawsuit, along with a wrongful death claim.

"It has been 16 months, 16 months," said Michael Oppenheimer, part of the defense team for Prosper, "and law enforcement and the government is still saying that there is an ongoing investigation. You've got to be kidding me. That is a joke. What are they waiting for?"

Now, the defense team has released surveillance video from that day that, they said, shows Prosper crawling away, unarmed.

That early September 2015 morning, Prosper, a Yellow Cab taxi driver, crashed his car into a light-pole near an on-ramp at Northwest Sixth Court and 119th Street.

Cameras at a nearby business filmed Prosper exiting the vehicle on foot and then making his way onto Interstate 95 southbound, which is when a Miami-Dade officer caught up with the 31-year-old.

At the time, police said, Prosper clamped his jaw down on the officer's hand, forcing that officer to shoot.

"Even if Junior did bite his finger, when was it?" said Oppenheimer. "Was it after the officer shot him twice, and he was unable to control himself? Who knows what happened, because they're not telling us."

Additionally, the medical examiner's office is not releasing any information to Prosper's widow. "I was very hurt because I'm his wife," she said.

Described as a hard working family man, Prosper left behind a wife, four children and a broken family, who are now asking for justice and closure.

"My son, he cared about his family," said his father. "It's just a nightmare because every single day I'm in the house, and I'll play with the baby and start crying."

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: Hollywood police officer rescues dog with severe bite marks on body

BYLINE: Sanela Sabovic

LINK: <http://www.local10.com/pets/hollywood-police-officer-rescues-dog-with-severe-bite-marks-on-body->

STORY: HOLLYWOOD, Fla. - A Hollywood police officer rescued an injured dog last week after finding him on the side of a street during her shift.

Thanks to the officer's life-saving efforts, the dog is now on the mend.

Officer Freya Hinton found the dog, named Trooper, Jan. 16 near some bushes with his face and legs covered with severe bite marks.

"I lifted him. His legs pretty much keeled underneath him. He had no strength at all," Hinton said. "The dog probably had a couple of hours left inside of him. He had pretty much given up."

Trooper suffered kidney failure because his blood had become septic. His wounds were infected and he was severely dehydrated.

Hinton said she knew it was a race against time to save the dog's life.

"I just saw this dog and I knew that I had to do something," she said. "It was such a young dog and had such a terrible life."

Trooper was set to be euthanized because of his worsening condition, so Hinton contacted several animal advocates, who posted Trooper's plight on Facebook.

Rescue organizations were contacted and a GoFundMe page was created to raise money and get medical care for Trooper.

"Within an hour, we had almost \$1,000. By the end of the day, we were up to \$2,000," Hinton said.

Trooper is now at Diaz Heart Animal Hospital in Hialeah, where he received emergency care.

"The only thing remaining is the wounds," Dr. Jose Diaz said. "They are healing, the tissues are growing again. He's much better."

Diaz said Trooper's wounds are consistent with bite marks, but it's unclear whether he was used as a bait dog for dog fighting or if he was attacked by a dog on the street.

He'll remain at the vet for at least 10 days to receive round-the-clock care. He is scheduled to have surgery on one of his injuries on Friday.

[Click here if you would like to donate to Trooper's medical costs.](#)

MEDIA OUTLET: ABC Miami (Channel 10)

HEADLINE: Federal lawsuit filed against Miami-Dade police by family of man killed by officers in 2015

BYLINE: Neki Mohan

LINK: <http://www.local10.com/news/crime/federal-lawsuit-filed-against-miami-dade-police-by-family-of-man-killed-by-officers-in-2015>

STORY: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla. - A lawsuit filed was filed against the Miami-Dade Police Department on Wednesday regarding the death of Junior Prosper, a taxi driver, who was shot and killed by police in September 2015.

The shooting took place after Prosper crashed his vehicle into a road sign near the I-95 soundbound entrance ramp and Northwest 119 Street.

The police were then called to the scene.

A struggle ensued between an officer and the 31-year-old man, which caused the officer to fire his weapon, police said.

Detective Daniel Ferrin said in 2015 that the officer's finger was nearly severed after being bitten by Prosper. He said the 9-year veteran was taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital's Ryder Trauma Center to be treated for his injury.

Prosper's family claims that police haven't been open about their investigation.

"We all know that if some citizen shoots an unarmed man that 99 times out of 100 that incitement and that investigation is finished in a day or two, maybe a week," Michael Oppenheimer, an attorney for the victim's widow, said. "It has been 16 months and law enforcement and the government is still saying there is an ongoing criminal investigation."

Oppenheimer claimed in a media release that a video showed an officer "firing his weapon at the unarmed victim, who had not posed any threat. The victim can be seen crawling away from the shooter, when the officer delivers the fatal shot."

The lawsuit claimed that police have withheld information in this case.

"Every day his 4-year-old son asks for him and I don't know what to tell him," Edeline Prosper said about her late husband. "I have been stressed out."