

CRESPOGRAM REPORT

BARRED FROM NUMEROUS GOVERNMENTAL COMPUTER NETWORKS FOR TELLING THE TRUTH

A CRESPOGRAM SERIES



HOW THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LIED ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF PUBLIC RECORDS, AND HOW UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, I ALREADY HAD THE DOCUMENTS REVEALING THAT THE ADVOCATE PROGRAM AND COURT OPTIONS HAD FAILED TO CLOSE OUT CASES RESULTING IN ARREST OF CLIENTS WHO HAD COMPLETED PROGRAMS

PART IV

Last year, approximately 50,000 people went through the 11th Judicial Circuit's County Court System which handles the county's misdemeanor criminal cases.

Unlike Circuit Court, where there are always criminal cases attracting the news media, members of the news media seldom if ever go near County Court to report on cases of shoplifting, petty theft, battery, loitering and all the other crimes that are overwhelmingly committed by poor people against other poor people.

Spending a day in a county courtroom can cause you to curse, laugh, wonder about the future of the gene pool, despair at how poorly our society is being served by the educational system, and worst of all, realize that what often takes place in these courtrooms is not justice, or anything resembling justice so much as it resembles a grinding conveyor belt whose principal goal, other than keeping the bodies and paperwork flowing, is generating "clients" for companies like The Advocate Program and Court Options.

It's an assembly line process where defendants are encouraged to choose pretrial diversion over entering a formal plea, especially if they are illegal immigrants, because as they are informed in a no nonsense manner the alternative to signing up for a pretrial diversion program, such as challenging the charges, or just agreeing to plead guilty and get it over with, can lead to deportation.

Given the volume of individuals that go through these programs on an annual basis there are bound to be numerous complaints about the delivery of service, and there were no shortage of complaints about these programs once I started digging. I chose to limit my investigations to the complaints detailed below because for the most part they deal with process, and I always try to focus on process and money in the major stories that I choose to write about.

Process for me always starts with an effort to acquire basic numbers, such as in this case, how many those individuals who went through the court system either as part of the Pretrial Diversion or Probation programs ended up being directed to one program or the other.

I figured the best way to get those numbers would be to submit a public records requests to the State Attorney's Office(SAO), who under Memorandums Of Understanding and/or contract was the contractor of record for The Advocate Program and Court Options and asking for copies of the annual reports submitted by these companies which I believed would provide the kinds of statistical information I was looking

believed would provide the kinds of statistical information I was looking for.

I came to that belief based on information that Court Options had included in their 2013 RFP proposal for the Misdemeanor Pretrial Diversion contract that was the basis for **Part III** of this series, as well as on a copy of a Bi-Annual Report that they had submitted to the State Attorney's Office on their Traffic Diversion Program.



Records and Reports

Court Options has *voluntarily* provided reports to the State Attorney's Office since its inception in 2004. In fact, Court Options created this initiative in an effort to further enhance our collaborative working relationship. We believe that providing this information is mutually beneficial-to the courts, the SAO, the provider and the offender. It demonstrates an attention to continuous improvement and utilizes data to enhance performance. These reports are now required by all programs providing services. Specifically, Court Options was responsible for developing the following reports to share with the SAO:

- Monthly Back On Track Report: *see Attachment 8*
- Annual Traffic/Recidivism Study: *see Attachment 8*
- Annual Back On Track/Recidivism Study: *see Attachment 8*
- Recidivism Study for Misdemeanors: *see Attachment 8*
- Quarterly Client Satisfaction Survey and Narrative: *see Attachment 11*
- Professional Satisfaction Survey and Narrative: *see Attachment 12*
- Victim Satisfaction Survey Study: this is a new report that has been conducted by Court Options. The study can be found in *Attachment 13*
- Annual overall summary of referrals, collections, and performance for all programs: *see Attachment 14*
- Pre and Post Test Study: this is a new report that has been conducted by Court Options. The study can be found in *Attachment 15*

Monthly reports provided to the State Attorney's Office include a summary of offenders with the following information: offender's name and address; court case number(s)/citation number(s), including incident dates; charge description(s); duration of diversion program; anticipated date of program completion; last date of contact; fees imposed, paid and due; restitution, paid and due; offender progress in complying with conditions with diversion.

Court Options shall ensure that all records are open to inspection upon the request of the County or State Attorney's Office.

Additionally, Court Options conducts reviews of its current caseload, analyzes re-arrest rates, and tracks these individuals for a period of 2 years.



Traffic Diversion Program

18 Month Report

June 2010 – April 2012

The following preliminary report indicates areas that we tracked during the first 180 days of operation for the newly implemented Traffic Diversion Program.

Table 1

Number of Cases referred to program as of April 1st, 2012	13,980
Number of Cases referred to program in first 18 months of implementation	9622
Percentage of cases that successfully completed the program that were referred in the first 18 months	77%
Percentage of Calendars covered by staff since implementation of program	100%
Number of Drive Legal referrals since June 2010 by Court Options	459
Number of Drive Legal referrals since June 2010 by Advocate	184
Percentage of cases that have been set for trial from cases referred the first 18 months of the program	22%
DWLS classes offered during the first 18 months	724
Percentage of clients who obtained valid drivers license or in process of obtaining valid license	38%-44%
Percentage of Drive Legal cases that are Court Options referrals	8%
Percentage of decrease in referrals over the last six months	40%

I included the Traffic Diversion Program page as part of my request to demonstrate that I was already in possession of at least part of one of the documents that I was requesting, which had come from a collection of annual and bi-annual reports submitted to the State Attorney's Office by Court Options.

This is the response I received to my public records request.

subject RE: #1 A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST (Court Options)

1:16 PM

to alcrespo1@att.net ★

cc Lorna Salomon ★, more

other actions ▾

Mr. Crespo,

Our search revealed we do not have any annual reports. We were, however, able to find some emails with some monthly and/or weekly reports, dating back to 2012. These reports include information regarding restitution to the victims- showing whether or not restitution was made at the time. Please advise whether you are requesting these monthly and/or weekly reports. Please be advised that we will need to impose a labor fee for the time required to review and redact these emails/reports.

Thank you,

Heather Sherman
Assistant State Attorney
Records Custodian
Office of the State Attorney
1350 N.W. 12th Avenue
Miami, Fl 33136

The Advocate Program, which appears to operate with a lot less transparency than Court Options, a process that can be [readily seen in comparing the proposals that they and Court Options submitted for the misdemeanor diversion contract](#), also, according to the SAO, failed to provide any annual reports, and even failed to provide information on restitution payments which we will be addressing further down in this story.

from Heather Sherman ★

subject RE: #1 A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST (Advocate Program)

1:18 PM

to alcrespo1@att.net ★

cc Lorna Salomon ★, more

other actions ▾

Mr. Crespo,

Our search revealed we do not have any annual reports. We were able to find some monthly and/or weekly reports, dating back to 2012. These reports, however, do not contain restitution information. Please advise whether you are requesting these monthly and/or weekly reports. Please be advised that we will need to impose a labor fee for the time required to review and redact these emails/reports.

Thank you,

Heather Sherman
Assistant State Attorney
Records Custodian
Office of the State Attorney
1350 N.W. 12th Avenue
Miami, Fl 33136

Lying about the existence of public records - especially records that are already in the public domain, because they are perceived as possible sources of embarrassing or incriminating information, while at the same time wanting to charge me a service fee to provide what could only be incomplete monthly or weekly reports, is just one of the hurdles that I faced as it dawned on various individuals and agencies where I was attempting to go with my investigation.

Catching the State Attorney's Office engaging in this kind of flagrant violation of the public records law however, was not only a ***Priceless Mastercard Moment***, but serves as just another example in the growing list of examples of why a growing number of people in the community are coming to realize that Katherine Fernandez-Rundle is the most politically corrupt public official in Miami-Dade County.

The real issue however, was not the efforts of the SAO to deny the existence of a handful of documents, but rather about the information contained in documents that I had obtained revealing serious problems with the management and record keeping activities of these two service providers, and which on their own pointed to serious management problems with the operation of both The Advocate Program and Court Options.

WE DON'T WANT TO BE PERCEIVED AS NOT BEING HELPFUL

The Advocate Program has been providing pretrial diversion and probation services for 38 years, and Court Options has been providing some of these same services for 12 years.

Together these two companies provide **ALL** of the pretrial diversion and probation services for the 11th Judicial Circuit and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, and during that time they've had tens of thousands of "clients" go through their programs who have paid upwards of **\$100 to \$150 million dollars in various fees and donations** as part of the requirements that led them to become "clients" of these programs.

During this same time neither of these programs has ever been subjected to a program evaluation or audit by an independent, outside company or government agency.

That means that neither of these programs has never been subjected to a program evaluation or audit requested by the State Attorney's Office, the Administrative Office of 11th Judicial District, or the Miami-Dade Clerk of Court's Office, as well as by the Audit and Management Department of

Miami-Dade County, or The Miami-Dade Inspector General's Office.

You can read the responses that I received from all of these agencies and government offices to the question of evaluations and audits [HERE](#).

In [Part II](#) of this series which dealt with contracts awarded to The Advocate Program, I focused on a letter written by Anthony Lopez, the owner of Metro Traffic Safety Institute, whose company had an openly hostile relationship with The Advocate Program, and who had been behind efforts in 2007 and 2012 to derail the efforts of that company to complete for the probation and pretrial diversion services contracts.

Disgruntled business competitors are nothing new, and even in a city where the news media wasn't as lazy and/or muzzled as the media in Miami is, the odds of any reporter making a serious effort to look into Lopez's allegations of mismanagement detailed in his 2012 letter to Miriam Singer, the Assistant Director of the Procurement Department, were probably slim to none.

But had a reporter done so, or better yet, had anyone within the County, like the Office Of Inspector General requested an investigation to look at Lopez's claims, they might have decided that perhaps his claims were not so far fetched.

Lopez made 6 specific allegations of mismanagement in his letter. Here is his second claim.

“ On page 25, letter G, the contract says “Priority shall be placed probationer’s timely payment of restitution. This is not happening. i have heard many complaints on this subject throughout the years. I don’t ask you to take my word for it. Perhaps some type of study could be conducted. The Help Me Howard report to follow is simply one recent example to the problem.” *(While the video link to the Help Me Howard story has been disconnected, the transcript of the story, that includes the fact that the story was about an Advocate Program client can be read [HERE](#))*

[Payment of restitution is a contract deliverable](#), and the failure to maintain proper records would certainly raise concerns in any program evaluation, had such an evaluation ever been conducted on either of these programs.

Although Lopez's complaint was about The Advocate Program's problems with restitution payments, Court Options was also bound to the same terms and conditions when it came to the payment of restitution by their clients, and they too had shown a failure to keep adequate records.

In March of 2012, during the roughly the same time period that Lopez was meeting and writing to Assistant Procurement Director Miriam Singer, several employees in the State Attorney's Office were also writing emails to each other and their boss sharing serious concerns over the failure of Court Options to properly maintain their restitution records.

From: Carrie Soubal (Admin)
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 10:59 AM
To: Sandra Lawrence
Subject: Court Options request for victim information

Sandra; I just happened to chat with Linda yesterday when we were outside and I asked her what's up. She said she is working on a big project in obtaining victim information for restitution from Court Options. My friend, I know you don't have the resources to do this and we shouldn't be responsible for getting this information. They should have captured this when they received the case. I recommended to you to let Ted know of this. Elena had the same situation, is not providing them the information and submitted the list to Ted.

Carrie☺ I'm going to start a conference call now for an hour, if you want to call me at 12:30 that's cool.

From: Ted Mannelli
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 1:36 PM
To: Sandra Lawrence
Cc: Carrie Soubal (Admin)
Subject: Re: Court Options request for victim information

Why are they asking for it?

On Mar 1, 2012, at 11:50 AM, "Sandra Lawrence"
<SandraLawrence@MiamiSAO.com> wrote:

Court Options is requesting from us pages upon pages of Victim information going back years. I was trying to have my staff complete but it is becoming overwhelming. Help!

Sandra E. Lawrence
Administrator

From: Ted Mannelli
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 1:43 PM
To: Sandra Lawrence
Cc: Carrie Soubal (Admin)
Subject: Re: Court Options request for victim information

If we don't help them, do we get blamed for victims not getting their restitution?

On Mar 1, 2012, at 1:37 PM, "Sandra Lawrence" <SandraLawrence@MiamiSAO.com> wrote:

So that they can have the correct address for our victims to receive outstanding \$ for restitution, etc.

Sandra E. Lawrence
Administrator

From: Ted Mannelli
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 9:22 AM
To: Carrie Soubal (Admin)
Cc: Sandra Lawrence
Subject: Re: Court Options request for victim information

Thanks.

I'm more concerned how it would to the public if it seemed we weren't helping CO locate victims. I should be back in office by Wed. afternoon. We can discuss then

On Mar 5, 2012, at 8:49 AM, "Carrie Soubal \ (Admin\)" <CarrieQSoubal@MiamiSao.com> wrote:

We shouldn't be blamed if they had the information from the get go. I just looked up a few cases and on a couple of them they have the wrong defendant's name, it doesn't match up to the case # they submitted. On another, the case was No Actioned so there wouldn't have been any restitution. On another case, the docket (which they have access to) clearly reflects that the monies were owed to the Unemployment Compensation Work Force, they should've been able to look that up and submit the restitution. I spoke with Sandra and she is going to pull 10 cases so we can look at the file and see if the information was submitted to the programs. We'll get back to you.

Carrie

The response of Ted Mannelli, who holds the ambiguous title of Executive Director of the State Attorney's Office, and who has been described to me as the most powerful person inside the State Attorney's Office that no one knows about, captured perfectly the "cover your ass" attitude inside the State Attorney's Office, where the first and foremost goal of the senior staff is to make sure that when the choice is between protecting the public or protecting the image of the office, the office will always come first.

In addition to sharing concerns about the volume of files that Court Options was requesting, someone must have expressed a concern about how much restitution money Court Options had collected because on

how much restitution money Court Options had collected, because on May 1st, following an additional string of emails between George Romagosa and the staff of the SAO, he sent them an email detailing the amount of restitution money Court Options had collected from 2008 thru 2011.

From: George Romagosa [mailto:gromagosa@courtoptions.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 1:50 PM
To: Kristi Bettendorf
Cc: Don L. Horn; rvscram@aol.com
Subject: RE: Year end statistics

Sorry for the delay:

Our controller was on vacation last week and got back yesterday. Our 2012 restitution collection numbers are similar to previous years. I have outlined the collection summary of each year since June of 2008 when we began providing services for your office.

- 2008: \$295,314.84, Began providing services in June
- 2009: \$936,392.64
- 2010: \$806,823.75
- 2011: You have the exact number on the report

Also, during our meeting with Don Horn last week it was decided we will be providing you with a monthly felony diversion summary report. We are currently putting on the final touches and will be sending you the report for your feedback and approval. We are currently providing a similar report to David Maer and Elena Reyes for the Back on Track Diversion Program. Please let me know if you have any questions.

The amount collected in 2011 was \$801,618.51, making a grand total of \$2,840,149.60, for the total amount of restitution monies collected between 2008-2011.

While Romagosa's email focused on the monies collected, he failed to provide information on the amount of monies that actually reached the intended victims during that same period.

As part of their RFP proposal, Court Options put their success "in locating victims for restitution approximately 90% of the time," although one has to question the spread of that approximation based on their efforts to root through thousands of files looking for information that would supposedly aid them in getting the correct addresses in order to disperse these restitution monies. ([90% rate, Court Options 1-2, Page 34](#))

The Advocate Program offered no such percentage as part of their proposal, and in fact provided no information on how much restitution they collected, choosing to lump that amount in with court costs, donations, cost recovery and cost of prosecution. ([Advocate Program 1-1, Bottom Page 83](#))

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST. WHAT FOR? YOU'VE GOT AN OUTSTANDING BENCH WARRANT

The failure to adequately keep track of restitution records was just one of

Elena Reyes, who having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

1. My name is Elena Reyes, and I am over 18 years of age.
2. The following statements are based on my personal knowledge and are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.
3. I am currently a resident of Miami-Dade County, Florida.
4. I was employed with the State Attorney's Office for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit ("SAO") from 1982 through September 2013. Since approximately 1997, I was responsible for the daily operations of the SAO's county court support staff and system issues. I served as a liaison between the SAO, the Clerk of the Courts ("COC"), the Administrative Office of the Courts ("AOC"), and the providers of misdemeanor diversion services.
5. As part of my duties and responsibilities, I frequently received reports that included data reflecting performance by misdemeanor services providers, such as the Advocate Program.
6. Since at least 2007, those reports also included data reflecting performance by Court Options as a misdemeanor diversion services provider.
7. In approximately November 2011, a working group was established with members from the AOC, COC Information Technology department, and me to automate the setting of misdemeanor cases entering the criminal justice system.
8. In November 2011, while in the testing stages of this project, the committee requested a report as to the amount of cases in the system that were pending to be set with an interim code of 45(Advocate) and code 268 (Court Options). The report with this data was forwarded to me for review.
9. At that time I reviewed and analyzed the data and presented my opinions and findings to the SAO Chief of County Court, Joseph Mansfield, to Chief Assistant, Don Horn, and to Executive Director, Ted Mannelli. I informed them that, based on my review of the data, I concluded that the report reflected thousands of cases in "interim disposition" for the two program providers – Advocate Program and Court Options.

10. Those cases with interim disposition remained opened yet should have been closed by Advocate Program and Court Options, or the diversion of the defendant should have been revoked for non-compliance with diversion requirements and set by the COC for hearing before a judge.

11. I also explained to them that the report reflected hundreds of cases where the diversion service providers had not even acknowledged the diverted defendant was to be enrolled in their respective programs.

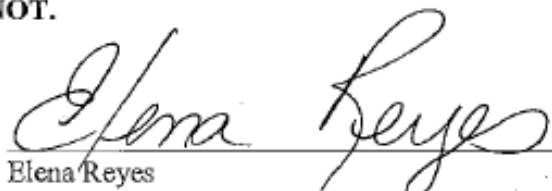
12. I also met with the State Attorney on this matter to explain my findings. This meeting was attended by Joseph Mansfield, Don Horn and Ted Mannelli. During that meeting, the State Attorney gave a directive to Joseph Mansfield to advise Administrative Judge Samuel Slom of these issues and to have these cases put on the court calendar.

13. Furthermore, I sent numerous e-mails to the two misdemeanor program providers, with copies to Joseph Mansfield and Don Horn, where I detailed to the lack of follow up by the Advocate Program on failures to revoke a diverted defendant that was non-compliant with diversion requirements and failure to submit a request to the Clerk's Office to have the case calendared.

14. I also met with representatives of the Advocate Program and Court Options to address these issues.

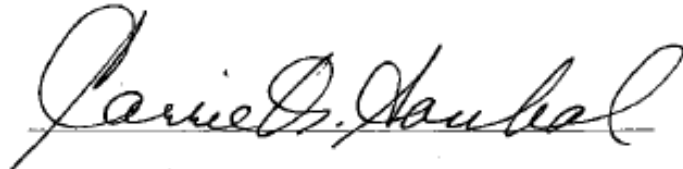
15. After RFP 851 (Misdemeanor Diversion Services) was released, Mr. Mannelli asked me if there were performance measures for the misdemeanor diversion services. I informed him via e-mail that we could not get performance measures for traffic diversion cases, but we could, in fact, get them for misdemeanors, crimes, and Back on Track (DUI) cases by simply generating a report from the system database. This information was easily accessible and could have been provided to the RFP 851 selection committee members.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


Elena Reyes
Affiant

The Affiant, Elena Reyes, appeared before me, testifying as above, on this the 22nd day of December 2013, and is personally known to me.

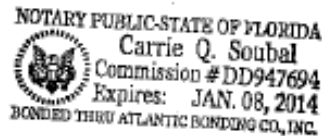
Witness my hand and official seal:



Notary Public

Commissioned Name: CARRIE Q. SOUBAL

My Commission Expires: JANUARY 8th, 2014



In at least one of the "numerous emails" that Ms. Reyes sent to Joseph Mansfield, Don Horn and Ted Mannelli, she revealed that "we already had one more defendant arrested," because of Bench Warrants that had been issued due to a failure of The Advocate Program to properly close out their cases.

From: Elena Reyes
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 8:13 AM
To: Don L. Horn; Joseph Mansfield; Ted Mannelli
Cc: Isabel Perez-Morina; Terry Ramos (TerryR@advocateprogram.org)
Subject: FW: Restitution Excel-ELENA.xlsx
Attachments: Restitution Excel-ELENA.xlsx

Joe, attached is the list of cases from Advocate that Bench warrants were issued based on the list that was provided to them with an interim (open) for years. Please note that this list was provided to me on the 12th of December and we already had one more defendant arrested. These Bench Warrants need to be removed asap to avoid any further arrests.

Terry, I now have a huge list of cases which you will need to check and type a list for us to Nolle Prose. Terry, I placed a note on the case that would be deleted from the list since the defendant was booked and case resolved.

Joe, I would like to make a new request once these cases have been resolved so that we capture all the cases with interim disposition which are prior that 2007 or 2008.

Thank you

In a second email sent that morning, Reyes revealed that there were cases all the way back to 1999 that had not been properly closed out by The Advocate Program.

From: Elena Reyes
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 9:10 AM



To: Terry Ramos (TerryR@advocateprogram.org); Isabel Perez-Morina; M. David McGriff (mdmphd@advocateprogram.org)
Cc: Don L. Horn; Joseph Mansfield; Ted Mannelli
Subject: FW: charge_dispooriginal112011.xls
Attachments: charge_dispooriginal112011.xls

Terry, attached is the list all the other cases from 1999 to 2011 with an interim disposition no action taken. Please note that you should only be listing cases with interim disposition 45. You do not have to research and add cases for code 271 and 268.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. Thank you

As damning as these emails are, a true measure of how serious these problems were, and continues to be because I have been told by sources within the SAO that some of these problems still exist is impossible to determine because for over two years the State Attorney's Office has refused to release copies of all of the emails that Reyes says she in her affidavit that she exchanged with Don Horn, Joseph Mansfield, Ted Mannelli, and the representatives of The Advocate Program and Court Options.

Here is a public records request made in February of 2014 by the attorney representing Miami Dade Community Services, in his continuing efforts to get copies of the emails referenced in the affidavit.

I've highlighted one of the sets of emails he requested that go to the allegation raised in **Part II** of this series that a handful of county court judges, starting with Chief Administrative Judge Sam Slom, were alleged to be providing protection for this program.

LAW OFFICES

VEZINA, LAWRENCE & PISCITELLI, P.A.

+1(850) 224-6205 TELEPHONE
+1(850) 224-1353 FACSIMILE

elombard@viplaw.com

February 14, 2014

By Electronic Mail and U.S. Mail

Ms. Lorna Salomon
Senior Employment Counsel
Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office
E.R. Graham Building
1350 N.W. 12 Avenue
Miami, FL 33136-2111

RE: Public Records Request

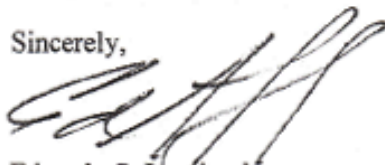
Dear Ms. Salomon:

I write to again follow up on our public record request of June 17, 2013, relating to Request for Proposals No. 851 for Misdemeanor Diversion Services issued by Miami-Dade County for the State Attorney's Office of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. After reviewing all the documents we received, we have concluded that not all requested documents were produced. For example, we believe the following documents exist, yet the documents have not been provided to us.

1. E-mails from prosecutors to Elena Reyes regarding Advocate Program, e-mails from Elena Reyes forwarding the prosecutors' e-mails to Advocate Program, and responses from Advocate Program;
2. E-mails from Elena Reyes to Advocate Program with the attachments of VOP memoranda;
3. Meeting notices with Court Options and Advocate Program on recurring performance issues;
4. E-mails from Elena Reyes to Joseph Mansfield, Don Horn, and Isabel Perez-Molina regarding Advocate Program and Court Options;
5. E-mails from assistant chiefs that were sent to Advocate Program in which Elena Reyes was included in the e-mail chain regarding Advocate Program performance;
6. E-mails on VOP from David McGriff stating that he is operating off of the judge's orders of procedures, e-mails where Elena Reyes asked David McGriff to forward to her such e-mails, and his response stating that there is nothing formal or written; and
7. E-mails on BOT and communications with Advocate Program.

It has now been eight months since the State Attorney's Office received our first public records request, and still the statutorily mandated production is incomplete. It is incumbent on the State Attorney's Office to identify what e-mails – in addition to those listed above – have not been produced and to provide those to us in short order. We trust that this will be accomplished quickly and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Eduardo S. Lombard
Vezina, Lawrence & Piscitelli, P.A.

Twenty one months later, after I made my own request for the emails, I received the following response from the State Attorney's Office.

from Heather Sherman ★

subject **RE: A NEW PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST**

3/31/16 1:12 PM

to alcrespo1@att.net ★

cc Lorna Salomon ★, more

other actions ▼

Mr. Crespo,

With regard to Joe Mansfield's email, we have no responsive records. With regard to Elena Reyes's emails, please be advised that we no longer have access to her emails and we are beyond the retention requirements for same. We were, however, able to retrieve a few emails she sent (see attached). Per your subsequent email, we took out the defendants' names and case numbers.

Thank you,

Heather Sherman
Assistant State Attorney
Records Custodian
Office of the State Attorney
1350 N.W. 12th Avenue
Miami, Fl 33136

As those with knowledge of the public records law know, the claim that there are “no responsive emails” from Joseph Mansfield, is not only legally insufficient when it comes to responding to a public records request, but flies in the face of the detailed specificity that Reyes included in her affidavit about Mansfield’s inclusion as a recipient of her emails. One can assume that what the State Attorney’s Office did not want to release was Mansfield’s communication with Judge Slom, over the “thousands” of cases that had never been closed out.

For well over two years the State Attorney has done everything in it’s power to keep all of this correspondence secret because the revelation of these “thousands of cases “being mishandled, and the “hundreds of cases” that were completely ignored by these two companies points to the kind of management failure that would in the private sector result in a top to bottom review, and possible termination of contract, which in turn, if the rumors are to be believed, open up multiple cans of worms that no one in power wants to see opened.

But, there is one can where the worms are already out and wiggling around.

ONE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING THE CAPITAL OF SOUTH AMERICA

One of the things that people talk about in Miami is that there are a lot of people who drive around with suspended licenses.

In my years as a blogger I’ve written stories about [the Mayor’s daughter Raquelita](#), and her suspended license problems, former [MPA Executive Advisor Kira Grossman and her multiple license suspensions](#), and then of course the moron, [Angel Zayon, and his license suspension](#), which was part of a larger story about how Zayon tried to get a traffic accident ticket squashed by Assistant Chief Gomez.

There is definitely a problem with folks driving around with suspended licenses, and to solve the problem the State Attorney's Office, with support and advice from Court Options and The Advocate Program came up with a Traffic Diversion Program to solve it.

For their efforts both of these companies operate versions of the program, and here is a report that Court Options submitted to the SAO in 2012 detailing what they had done during the first two years they operated their version of the program.

Keep in mind the ultimate goal of the program is to get folks back behind the wheel with valid driver's licenses.



Traffic Diversion Program

Two Year Report

2010 – 2012

The following preliminary report indicates areas that we tracked during the first two years of operation for the Traffic Diversion Program.

Table 1

Number of Cases referred to program in first two years of implementation	15,322
Percentage of cases that successfully completed the program that were referred in the first two years	75%
Percentage of Calendars covered by staff since implementation of program	100%
Number of Drive Legal referrals since June 2010 by Court Options	379
Percentage of cases that have been set for trial from cases referred the first two years of the program	23%
DWLS classes offered during the first two years	204
Percentage of clients who obtained valid drivers license or in process of obtaining valid license	38%-44%
Percentage of Drive Legal cases that are Court Options referrals	12%
Percentage of cases referred for NVDL	48%
Percentage of cases referred for DWLS	52%

There are a lot of reasons of why not everyone in the program could get their driver's license unsuspended, but I've been told by people with information about what actually goes on with this program is that the biggest problem by far is not actually suspended driver's licenses, but the fact that the drivers had **NO** license to begin with.

The reason that they had no license is because their illegal aliens, and therefore can't obtain a license.

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