

IN THE EXECUTIVE ETHICS COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

In re: RUDDY ORTIZ and)
MARIA LAZIC,) OEIG Case #11-00434

OEIG FINAL REPORT (REDACTED)

Below is a final summary report from an Executive Inspector General. The General Assembly has directed the Executive Ethics Commission (Commission) to redact information from this report that may reveal the identity of witnesses, complainants or informants and "any other information it believes should not be made public." 5 ILCS 430/20-52(b).

The Commission exercises this responsibility with great caution and with the goal of balancing the sometimes-competing interests of increasing transparency and operating with fairness to the accused. In order to balance these interests, the Commission may redact certain information contained in this report. The redactions are made with the understanding that the subject or subjects of the investigation have had no opportunity to rebut the report's factual allegations or legal conclusions before the Commission.

The Commission received a final report from the Governor's Office of Executive Inspector General ("OEIG") and a response from the agency in this matter. The Commission, pursuant to 5 ILCS 430/20-52, redacted the final report and mailed copies of the redacted version and responses to the Attorney General, the Governor's Executive Inspector General and to Ruddy Ortiz and Maria Lazic at their last known addresses.

The Commission reviewed all suggestions received and makes this document available pursuant to 5 ILCS 430/20-52.

FINAL REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

In March 2011, the Office of Executive Inspector General (OEIG) received a complaint alleging that Ruddy Ortiz, former Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) Deputy Director of the Business Enterprise Program, had engaged in misconduct relating to a female Business Enterprise Program certification applicant. The OEIG concludes that Mr. Ortiz engaged in misconduct as initially alleged.

The investigation revealed that Mr. Ortiz engaged in other wrongdoing, including misconduct in relation to a state employee, and that he used state resources for non-state reasons, and engaged in private business and other non-state work during state work hours. Thus, the allegations as to Mr. Ortiz are **FOUNDED**.

The investigation also revealed that Business Enterprise Program employee Maria Lazic engaged in wrongdoing, including misconduct in relation to using state resources for non-state reasons, and that she engaged in non-state work during state work hours. Thus, the allegations as to Ms. Lazic are **FOUNDED**.

II. BACKGROUND

A. The Business Enterprise Program (Central Management Services)

The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) is a program within the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) that reviews and approves companies for certification as owned by a minority, female, or person with a disability. *See* Ill. Admin. Code tit. 44, § 10.50. A company that is certified by BEP may receive certain benefits, such as being listed as a BEP certified company.

B. Former Business Enterprise Program Deputy Director Ruddy Ortiz

On November 8, 2010, Ruddy Ortiz began employment as the BEP Deputy Director. Mr. Ortiz's job duties included, "[s]erv[ing] authoritatively as policy-formulating administrator in planning, directing, implementing and administering the development and ongoing administration of the entities of the Business Enterprise Program . . ." In June 2012, Mr. Ortiz became a Senior Policy Advisor at DHS. In November 2012, DHS terminated Mr. Ortiz's employment.

III. INVESTIGATION

In order to investigate the alleged misconduct, the OEIG interviewed numerous people, reviewed documents, and reviewed Mr. Ortiz's state email account. The investigation substantiated the original allegation, and also revealed evidence of other misconduct.

This report discusses Mr. Ortiz's misconduct related to: 1) a female BEP certification applicant; 2) a female BEP employee; and 3) the misuse of state resources.

During the investigation, the OEIG also discovered that state employee Maria Lazic engaged in misconduct.

A. BEP Certification Applicant, [REDACTED]

1. Mr. Ortiz's Conduct Regarding [REDACTED] [Applicant]

On December 6, 2010, Mr. Ortiz met [applicant] at an event. On December 7, 2010, [applicant] emailed Mr. Ortiz asking for assistance in processing her BEP certification application. After receiving [applicant's] email, Mr. Ortiz sent an email to BEP staff to check on the status of [applicant's] application. Mr. Ortiz also emailed [applicant] and wrote: "I spoke to

my staff. They pulled up your file and it is being expedited as we speak”¹ In response, [applicant] emailed Mr. Ortiz, “Thank you tremendously! I would love to take you to lunch if you have a day available. Let me know!” Subsequent emails confirm that on December 10, 2010, Mr. Ortiz and [applicant] had lunch in Rosemont, Illinois.

On December 16, 2010, the day after [applicant’s] company was certified as a Female Business Enterprise (FBE) by BEP, Mr. Ortiz emailed her his personal email address and said that he would give her advice that he gives to clients of his personal business.²

2. Interview of [applicant]

On August 19, 2011, the OEIG interviewed [applicant]. Among other things, [applicant] confirmed that she paid for Mr. Ortiz’s lunch on one occasion as thanks for his help with her company’s FBE certification application. [Applicant] stated the cost of the lunch for both her and Mr. Ortiz was approximately \$60.

3. Interview of Ruddy Ortiz Regarding [applicant]

Investigators conducted two interviews of former BEP Deputy Director Ruddy Ortiz. The first interview took place on October 13, 2011, and the second interview took place on November 15, 2012.³ Below is a synopsis of Mr. Ortiz’s interview as it relates to [applicant].

Mr. Ortiz stated that he met [applicant] at an event, when he was acting in his capacity as BEP Deputy Director and confirmed he went to lunch with her, and that she paid. Mr. Ortiz said that he did not see the lunch as a thank-you lunch, but as a business lunch. Mr. Ortiz also stated that his supervisor told him that he could accept gifts up to \$60 or \$70 in value.⁴ Mr. Ortiz stated that looking back, the lunch may have looked bad, and it took place only one month after he had started working at BEP.

Mr. Ortiz confirmed that he had directed [applicant] to information about his personal business and said he believed that conduct was an inappropriate use of his state email account and state time. Investigators presented Mr. Ortiz with a copy of the CMS policy that prohibits employees from using their “official position for personal gain or influence,” after which, Mr. Ortiz said his conduct with [applicant] violated this policy.

¹ [Applicant’s] application was not processed before other applications received during the same time frame. Thus, the OEIG does not find Mr. Ortiz’s conduct in taking steps to advance the processing of her application to be improper.

² As discussed later, Mr. Ortiz is involved with other personal businesses. [Applicant] had first emailed Mr. Ortiz to ask for his advice and had referenced Mr. Ortiz’s “other company.”

³ During both interviews, Mr. Ortiz was asked if he read the CMS Policy Manual and both times he indicated that he signed the acknowledgement form, but was not familiar with all of the policies.

⁴ This statement was contradicted by the supervisor.

B. Mr. Ortiz's Conduct Relating to State Employee Maria Lazic

1. Mr. Ortiz's Email Correspondence with State Employee Maria Lazic

Prior to March 29, 2011, CMS posted a position for a BEP Administrative Assistant I. On March 29, 2011, Mr. Ortiz and a BEP Certification Manager interviewed Ms. Lazic for the posted position. Investigators discovered that after Ms. Lazic's interview, Mr. Ortiz began sending her a series of emails. Specifically, Mr. Ortiz sent, among others, the following emails on the following dates:

- March 29, 2011: email to Ms. Lazic that stated, **REDACTED**; and
- April 11, 2011: email to Ms. Lazic regarding her BEP job application in which Mr. Ortiz informed her BEP was still interviewing candidates for the position, **REDACTED**

In addition to the above emails, on April 12, 2011, prior to Ms. Lazic being selected for the position, Mr. Ortiz emailed her the following:

REDACTED

On April 15, 2011, Maria Lazic was offered and accepted the BEP position with a start date of May 2, 2011.⁵ Between April 15 and May 2, 2011, Mr. Ortiz continued to email Ms. Lazic and the two went to lunch. **REDACTED**

After May 2, 2011 and through about January 2012, Mr. Ortiz and Ms. Lazic continued to exchange dozens of personal non-work related emails. On May 6, 2011, four days after Ms. Lazic started working, she sent Mr. Ortiz a personal non-work related email. Investigators also found emails wherein:

- Ms. Lazic asks Mr. Ortiz for assistance on her non-state related homework;
- Mr. Ortiz appears to forward Ms. Lazic's daughter's resumé to a non-state employer; and
- Ms. Lazic sends Mr. Ortiz a letter of recommendation for herself.⁶

2. Interview of Mr. Ortiz Regarding his Conduct Towards Maria Lazic

During Mr. Ortiz's November 15, 2012 interview, investigators asked Mr. Ortiz about his conduct towards BEP job applicant Maria Lazic, and specifically the fact that he went to lunch with this job applicant before she was hired. In response, Mr. Ortiz stated that he could not

⁵ The OEIG does not conclude that Ms. Lazic was unqualified or improperly selected for the position.

⁶ Mr. Ortiz and Ms. Lazic both stated in their OEIG interviews that Mr. Ortiz drafted this recommendation letter.

recall going to lunch with any other job applicants and said that that it was not appropriate to talk with a BEP job applicant about her qualifications without having the other reviewers at the meeting.

Investigators also asked Mr. Ortiz about certain emails he sent job applicant Ms. Lazic before she was hired, [REDACTED] Mr. Ortiz said that by giving Ms. Lazic information [REDACTED] [REDACTED] he provided her confidential information in violation of CMS policy.

Mr. Ortiz was also asked about his conduct vis-à-vis the CMS sexual harassment policy.⁷

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. Interviews of Maria Lazic

The OEIG interviewed Maria Lazic on two occasions: September 5 and November 26, 2012. During her first interview, Ms. Lazic stated that she met Mr. Ortiz during her job interview for a position at BEP. Ms. Lazic stated that when Mr. Ortiz asked her to go to lunch before she started at BEP, she did not feel uncomfortable and considered it a business meeting. Ms. Lazic also stated that the emails Mr. Ortiz sent her [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

⁷ The CMS Sexual Harassment Policy states in part that sexual harassment is defined as "[a]ny unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or any conduct of a sexual nature when[, among other things] . . . such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment."

[REDACTED]

REDACTED

Ms. Lazic made a number of statements regarding Mr. Ortiz's conduct, including:⁹

- [REDACTED]
- She felt pressure to go to lunch with Mr. Ortiz because he was her supervisor; and
- That because Mr. Ortiz is in a leadership role, he should know the policies.

On November 26, 2012, after the OEIG's second interview with Mr. Ortiz, the OEIG again interviewed Ms. Lazic. During Ms. Lazic's second interview, she stated that she was not entirely truthful during her first OEIG interview. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ms. Lazic also made several statements about Mr. Ortiz's conduct, including that he was persistent and manipulative.

During Ms. Lazic's interviews, she also made the following statements:

- that she and Mr. Ortiz used their state computers to discuss the employment of her daughter for a non-state job;
- that she violated state policies that prohibit her from using state time for reasons other than performing her assigned duties;
- that she violated state policy by working on her non-state homework during state work hours; and
- that that she was deeply sorry for violating the rules and that she knows her actions were inappropriate.

C. Mr. Ortiz's Conduct Relating to the Use of State Resources

1. Mr. Ortiz's Personal Businesses

The investigation also revealed that Mr. Ortiz sent emails from his state email account regarding projects for his personal businesses. Investigators discovered that Mr. Ortiz was affiliated with several different businesses including, [REDACTED].com and [REDACTED]. Those businesses appear to focus on business and professional coaching and consulting.

⁹ This Report does not exhaustively recount Ms. Lazic's statements or emails

[REDACTED]

Investigators also reviewed Mr. Ortiz's Statement of Economic Interests (SOEI) Forms that require certain individuals, like Mr. Ortiz, to disclose their economic interests. The SOEI requires individuals to list, among other things, "any entity doing business in the State of Illinois from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year." Mr. Ortiz filed an SOEI form on March 29, 2011, and did not list any of his businesses.

During Mr. Ortiz's October 13, 2011 interview, he stated that he owned and operated a business called [REDACTED], and earned over \$10,000 from it in 2010. Mr. Ortiz was shown his 2011 SOEI form. Mr. Ortiz stated that he did not understand this form and said he asked a subordinate for assistance. In any event, Mr. Ortiz agreed that he should have reported [REDACTED] on the SOEI form.¹⁰

2. Mr. Ortiz's Use of State Resources for Personal Reasons

Investigators also discovered that between November 2010 and January 2012, in addition to the emails noted above between Mr. Ortiz and Ms. Lazic, Mr. Ortiz sent and received hundreds of other personal emails at various times throughout his state work day.

Mr. Ortiz's personal emails began less than one month after he was hired as the Deputy Director of BEP. The additional personal emails discovered were primarily sent to three non-state employees.

3. Interview of Mr. Ortiz Regarding His Use of State Resources

In his October 2011 interview, Mr. Ortiz was asked about his use of state resources for personal business. At that time, he said he used his state computer to access his personal website, [REDACTED].com, approximately one or two times per day.

When asked about his use of state time and resources for non-state related matters, Mr. Ortiz estimated that he spent approximately twenty to thirty minutes each day sending personal emails from his state email account and approximately thirty to forty-five minutes each day checking his personal email.¹¹ In fact, during his November 2012 interview, Mr. Ortiz said that since his October 2011 interview, he continued to spend state time and resources working on his personal business.

Investigators informed Mr. Ortiz that the investigation revealed that he had exchanged hundreds of personal emails and asked him whether he violated state policy by excessively using his state email account for personal use. In response, Mr. Ortiz stated, "excessive[]" would be an understatement." Mr. Ortiz confirmed that the substance of some of the personal emails was inappropriate.

Finally, Mr. Ortiz stated that during state time, he assisted Ms. Lazic with a school project. Mr. Ortiz stated that this conduct violated state policy. Mr. Ortiz also said he assisted Ms. Lazic's daughter in applying for a non-state job.

¹⁰ During Mr. Ortiz's second interview, he stated that he has not earned a profit from any of his businesses and therefore did not report them on his most recent SOEI form.

¹¹ Mr. Ortiz stated that most, but not all, of that time was during lunch.

IV. ANALYSIS

A. Ruddy Ortiz Improperly Accepted a Gift in Exchange for the Performance of His State Duties

CMS prohibits employees from “[a]ccepting any gratuity, gift, present, reward or other thing of value in return for the performance of the employee’s official duties” CMS Policy Manual, Rules of Conduct.¹²

The facts in this investigation reveal that on December 10, 2010, BEP customer [applicant] paid for Mr. Ortiz’s lunch to thank him for assisting in her company’s certification. Thus, because Mr. Ortiz’s official duties include administering BEP, the allegation that he improperly accepted a gift in return for performance of his official duties is **FOUNDED**.

B. Ruddy Ortiz Used His Official Position for Personal Gain

CMS prohibits employees from engaging in “[a]ny conduct or action taken to use the employee’s official position for personal gain or influence.” CMS Policy Manual, Rules of Conduct.

By virtue of his position at BEP, Mr. Ortiz had a greater opportunity to communicate with [applicant] and used that opportunity to email her information about his personal business.¹³ Those communications with [applicant] did not benefit BEP or the State of Illinois, rather, they promoted Mr. Ortiz’s personal business. In short, Mr. Ortiz used his official position to promote his personal business, thus the allegation that he used his position for personal gain is **FOUNDED**.

C. There Is Insufficient Evidence to Find that Mr. Ortiz Violated the Sexual Harassment Policy

CMS defines sexual harassment as “[a]ny unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors or any conduct of a sexual nature when[, among other things] . . . such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual’s work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.” CMS Policy Manual, Sexual Harassment.

The OEIG investigation reflects inconclusive evidence to support a finding of sexual harassment against Mr. Ortiz. **REDACTED**

REDACTED

¹² State agencies may, as CMS did, adopt more restrictive rules regarding the acceptance of gifts than the rules set forth by the Illinois State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. *See* 5 ILCS 430/10-40. The Ethics Act prohibits employees from accepting food gifts that exceed \$75. *See id.* at § 10-15 (8).

¹³ During Mr. Ortiz’s interview he stated that he did not charge [applicant] for the information he gave her, but that he has charged others for similar services in the past.

REDACTED

Therefore the allegation that Mr. Ortiz violated the sexual harassment policy is **UNFOUNDED**.

D. Ruddy Ortiz Engaged in Conduct Unbecoming a State Employee

CMS policy prohibits employees from engaging in conduct unbecoming of a CMS employee. CMS Policy Manual, Rules of Conduct. Indeed, the CMS Policy Manual states that CMS employees "in the performance of their duties, execute a public trust which requires their adherence to the highest standards of ethical conduct." CMS Policy Manual, Ethical Standards.

REDACTED

REDACTED This conduct is a serious breach of the standards of CMS and not becoming of a state employee, therefore this allegation is **FOUNDED**.

E. Ruddy Ortiz Completed an Inaccurate 2011 SOEI Form

The SOEI form required Mr. Ortiz to list entities "doing business in the State of Illinois from which income in excess of \$1,200 was derived during the preceding calendar year." Further, CMS prohibits employees from "[m]aking a false report, written or oral, including all applications, timekeeping records and information regarding employment." CMS Policy Manual, Rules of Conduct.

In this matter, Mr. Ortiz admitted during his interviews that he did not report on his SOEI form **REDACTED**, from which he earned over \$10,000 from in 2010. Therefore, because Mr. Ortiz inaccurately completed an official document regarding his employment, the allegation that he violated CMS policy by inaccurately completing his 2011 SOEI form is **FOUNDED**.¹⁴

F. Ruddy Ortiz Abused State Time and Resources

CMS Policy prohibits "[m]isuse or abuse of state working time for personal gain or for any reason other than performing the employee's assigned duties." CMS Policy Manual, Rules of Conduct. CMS policy also states that computers are "assets of the State of Illinois [that] must be used for authorized state business purposes." CMS Policy Manual, Information Technology (IT) Security. CMS does allow employees to use their computers for "reasonable personal use." *Id.*

¹⁴ The Illinois Governmental Ethics Act provides, anyone who "willfully files a false or incomplete statement shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor." 5 ILCS 420/4A-107. Mr. Ortiz claimed that he misunderstood the SOEI form. The OEIG investigation did not adduce evidence that refutes Mr. Ortiz's assertion, and thus the OEIG does not conclude that he violated the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act.

Mr. Ortiz admitted that he misused state resources and time. Specifically, Mr. Ortiz stated that on average he spent approximately one hour each day using his state computer for non-work related matters. Indeed, the investigation revealed that from November 2010 through January 2012, Mr. Ortiz sent and received hundreds of personal emails from his state computer. In Mr. Ortiz's own words, to state that his use of emails for personal use was excessive, "would be an understatement." In addition, Mr. Ortiz admitted to using his state computer to work on his personal businesses during state time. The OEIG concludes that Mr. Ortiz's use of his state computer exceeded any "reasonable personal use." Thus, the allegation that Mr. Ortiz violated CMS policies by excessively abusing state time and resources for personal matters is **FOUNDED**.

G. Maria Lazic Abused State Time and Resources

As stated above, CMS prohibits employees from using state time for any reason other than performing their assigned duties. CMS Policy Manual, Rules of Conduct. Further, except for reasonable personal use, state computers are only authorized for conducting state business. CMS Policy Manual, Information Technology (IT) Security.

During Ms. Lazic's interview she stated that she violated state policies by using the state computer and time for personal use, including sending personal emails, performing homework, and assisting a family member with finding employment.¹⁵ **REDACTED**

REDACTED
REDACTED The OEIG concludes that Ms. Lazic's use of her state computer exceeded any "reasonable personal use." Therefore, the allegation that Ms. Lazic violated CMS policies prohibiting misuse of state time and resources is **FOUNDED**.

H. Maria Lazic Engaged in Conduct Unbecoming a State Employee

CMS policy prohibits employees from engaging in conduct unbecoming of a CMS employee. CMS Policy Manual, Rules of Conduct.

REDACTED This conduct is a serious breach of the standards of CMS and not becoming of a state employee, and therefore this allegation is **FOUNDED**.

V. CONCLUSIONS

As a result of its investigation, the OEIG issues these findings:

- **FOUNDED** – Ruddy Ortiz violated CMS policy by accepting a gift from [applicant] in return for the performance of his official duties.

¹⁵ During her interview, Ms. Lazic stated that she sent non-work emails while employed at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). The OEIG's investigation focused on Ms. Lazic's conduct and CMS, and therefore does not make findings based on her conduct at HFS.

- **FOUNDED** – Ruddy Ortiz violated CMS policy by using his official position for personal gain by sending [applicant] information about his personal business.
- **UNFOUNDED** – Ruddy Ortiz violated CMS's sexual harassment policy through his conduct with Maria Lazic.
- **FOUNDED** – Ruddy Ortiz violated CMS policy by **REDACTED** **REDACTED** which is unbecoming of a state employee.
- **FOUNDED** – Ruddy Ortiz violated CMS policy by inaccurately completing his 2011 SOEI form.
- **FOUNDED** – Ruddy Ortiz violated CMS policies by excessively abusing state time and resources for personal matters.
- **FOUNDED** – Maria Lazic violated CMS policies by inappropriately using state time and resources for personal matters.
- **FOUNDED** – Maria Lazic violated CMS policy **REDACTED** **REDACTED** which is unbecoming of a state employee.

During the OEIG investigation, Ruddy Ortiz's state employment was terminated, but given the seriousness of his misconduct, the OEIG recommends that a copy of this report be included in Mr. Ortiz's centralized employment file and that he not be rehired for state employment. The OEIG also recommends that any separation agreement with Mr. Ortiz be amended to state that he agrees not to seek, nor to accept, any continuing or future employment with the State of Illinois.

The OEIG recommends that Maria Lazic be disciplined.

No further investigative action is needed and this case is considered closed.

Date: December 31, 2012

Office of Executive Inspector General
for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor
32 W. Randolph Street, Ste. 1900
Chicago, IL 60601

By: **Christine P. Benavente**
Assistant Inspector General

Edward Doyle
Investigator, #159



CONFIDENTIAL

January 22, 2013

Ricardo Meza, Executive Inspector General
Office of Executive Inspector General
32 West Randolph, Suite 1900
Chicago, Illinois 60601

RE: OEIG Case No. 11-00434

Dear Executive Inspector General Meza:

We have reviewed the Office of the Executive Inspector General's Final Report regarding the above-referenced matter. Please accept this letter as CMS' response.

The OEIG's recommendations for Ruddy Ortiz will be handled by the Department of Human Services, Mr. Ortiz's last place of employment.

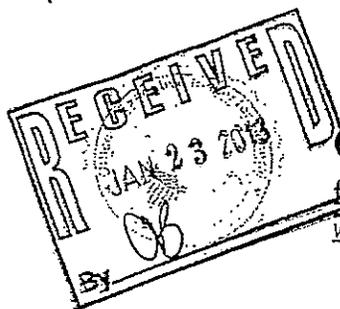
In the matter of CMS employee Maria Lazic, CMS is pursuing disciplinary action.

Should you have any questions please contact our Ethics Officer, Jay Brown, at 312-

Sincerely yours,

Malcolm Weems
Director

cc: Michelle Saddler, Secretary, Department of Human Services



Office of Executive Inspector General
for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor
www.inspectorgeneral.illinois.gov

OEIG RESPONSE FORM

Case Number: 11-00434

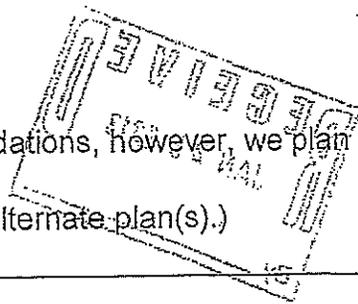
Due Within 20 Days of Receipt of Report

Please check the box that applies.

- We have implemented all of the OEIG recommendations.
(Provide details regarding action taken.)

- We will implement all of the OEIG recommendations but will require additional time.
We will report to OEIG within 30 days from the original return date.
(Provide details regarding action planned / taken.)

(over)



We are implementing one or more of the OEIG recommendations, however, we plan to depart from other OEIG recommendations.
(Provide details regarding action planned / taken and any alternate plan(s).)

We do not wish to implement any of the OEIG recommendations.
(Explain in detail why and provide details of any alternate plan(s).)

Signature

Jay Brown

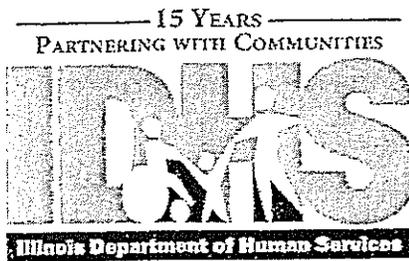
Print Name

Central Management Services

Print Agency and Job Title Ethics Offi.

1/22/2013

Date



Pat Quinn, Governor

Michelle R.B. Saddler, Secretary

100 South Grand Avenue, East • Springfield, Illinois 62762
401 South Clinton Street • Chicago, Illinois 60607

January 23, 2013

Mr. Ricardo Meza
Executive Inspector General
Office of the Executive Inspector General
for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor
32 West Randolph Street, Suite 1900
Chicago, Illinois 60601

RE: OEIG #11-00434

Dear Mr. Meza:

The Department of Human Services has reviewed the Final Summary Report issued by your Office. The report substantiated various allegations of misconduct against a former Department of Central Management Services employee, Ruddy Ortiz, who subsequently joined the Department of Human Services. Mr. Ortiz was discharged by the Department of Human Services on November 15, 2012, prior to the issuance of your report.

In response to your recommendation, we have placed a copy of your report in Mr. Ortiz's centralized employment file, and agree that Mr. Ortiz should not be rehired for State employment. Although no separation agreement was executed, our Human Resources Department has been instructed to amend the "Personnel Transaction Report" to indicate "Separation - No Reinstatement" with respect to Mr. Ortiz.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michelle R.B. Saddler
Secretary



ILLINOIS

Pat Quinn, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Malcolm Weems, Director

CONFIDENTIAL

May 31, 2013

Ricardo Meza, Executive Inspector General
Office of Executive Inspector General
69 W. Washington St., Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60602



RE: OEIG Case No. 11-00434

Dear Executive Inspector General Meza:

I am writing to provide an update to our previous correspondence regarding the above-referenced matter.

CMS employee, Maria Lazic was issued a 30 day suspension. It was served from March 25, 2013 to April 24, 2013.

Should you have any questions please contact our Ethics Officer, Lynn Carter, at 312-

Sincerely yours,

Malcolm Weems
Director

“In the aftermath of this investigation, I find myself feeling like the scapegoat for an agency that allowed its representative to break their own hiring policies. Although the agency took corrective action, their failure to follow the mandated Rutan guidelines during the hiring process made room for the calamitous events mentioned. I regret my actions but I can honestly and respectfully say that these were influenced by the agency representative himself and therefore by his hiring agency. I thank the Office of the Executive Inspector General and the Executive Ethics Commission for adhering to the principles of its Administrative Code and I ask from them to secure continuous monitoring of the State Agencies hiring practices. As our Governor indicated on December 11, 2009, his Administration is committed to adhering to the principles in the U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Rutan v. Republican Party of Illinois*, which prohibits the use of political affiliation or (in this case) support in making personnel decisions for State positions covered by *Rutan*.”

Maria Lazic

Certification Analyst

Central Management Services
Business Enterprise Program

(312) 814

(312) 814-

Email: _____