

## February 21, 2018 City Commission Meeting Agenda

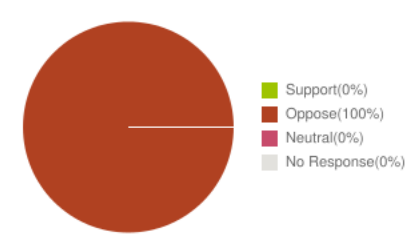
02-21-18 18:30

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
C. 18-060 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF LEGAL FEES INCURRED IN THE SUCCESSFUL LEGAL DEFENSE OF COMMISSIONER LAZAROW IN A MATTER BEFORE THE BROWARD STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (STAFF: CITY ATTORNEY)	2	0	2	0

### Sentiments for All Agenda Items

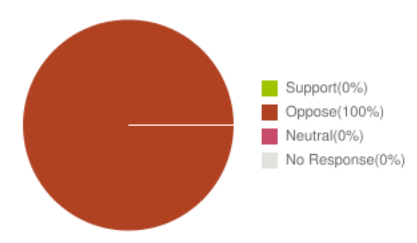
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for C. 18-060 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF LEGAL FEES INCURRED IN THE SUCCESSFUL LEGAL DEFENSE OF COMMISSIONER LAZAROW IN A MATTER BEFORE THE BROWARD STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (STAFF: CITY ATTORNEY)

#### Overall Sentiment



### Sabrina Javellana

Location:  
Submitted At: 9:54pm 02-21-18

Passing this resolution would be a gross misappropriation of taxpayer dollars in the amount of \$22,227.97. In times in which the city commission and manager have cried overspending and made numerous cuts in the past year to city employee health benefits, Hallandale High School’s Criminal Justice Magnet Program, and increased commissioners salary by \$10,000 there is no justification for this unnecessary and unethical reimbursement. As a student of political science, it is my responsibility to analyze and critique everyday legislative policies and actions. The FL Supreme Court had a case in 1990 of Thornber vs. the City of Ft. Walton Beach which set the precedent for future predicaments such as this one. Vice Mayor Lazarow’s cleared investigation by the State

Attorney's Office arose from an issue during the 2016 campaign trail. The legal fees in question were incurred as Vice Mayor was a candidate acting on her own and her reelection campaign's behalf and gain and not as an elected official working for a public purpose and collective good. As the situation of campaign literature and workers was unrelated to city business there is no rationale or legal grounds for reimbursement. As officials, you are entrusted stewardship of taxpayer's money and I urge all of you in an effort to battle financial corruption of politicians nationwide and unlawful handouts to kill this resolution.

**Brian Stewart**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:01pm 02-21-18

The Comm'n has no legal basis to reimburse Comm'r Lazarow for her legal fees in this matter. The law is clear, as laid out by the Fla. Supreme Court in *Thornber v. City of Ft. Walton Beach*: public officials are entitled to legal representation at public expense only when defending themselves against litigation arising from the performance of their OFFICIAL DUTIES while serving a PUBLIC PURPOSE.

Comm'r Lazarow's actions in no way fit this description. The actions underlying her legal defenses arose from her attempts to pay her political opponents' campaign workers to not hand out campaign literature. This was done for her own benefit as a candidate. Nothing about the underlying actions involved official action as a Comm'r, nor did it involve anything meant to benefit the public. In fact, the actions were purposefully kept hidden from the public because of their illicit and unethical nature.

Although the SAO determined that Lazarow did not violate the letter of the law, she certainly violated the spirit of the law. The Comm'n would be violating both by giving away public money to undeservedly reimburse her for money she is in no way entitled to. The purpose for this rule is to "avoid the chilling effect that a denial of representation might have on public officials in performing their duties properly and diligently." The actions Lazarow performed were NOT part of her official duties and were handled secretly & dishonestly.

If any other Comm'r agrees to pay Lazarow the 10s of 1000s of dollars requested, it will not be to reimburse her for actions taken on behalf of the public, it will be to repay her for their personal relationships with her. This is certainly a test for our newest Comm'r to see if he was appointed to serve the people or for the benefit of the woman who nominated him.

The Commission CANNOT ethically approve this measure. If approved regardless, it is a good indication of the new type of corruption we can expect from this reconstituted Commission.