

**MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST
MEETING SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2007
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Complaints

07-17: The Commission on Ethics ratified the Letter of Instruction which stated that an entity covered by the Citizens' Bill of Rights is required to produce a requested document as long as the request is sufficiently specific to identify the requested record. The requester is not required to specify title or date of requested records and the requested record should be produced in the length of time necessary to retrieve the requested information and redact confidential or exempt material.

07-20: The Commission on Ethics dismissed the complaint for lack of legal sufficiency against Corrections and Rehabilitation Director Ryan who allegedly exploited his official position for not taking appropriate disciplinary action against the President of the United Correctional Officer Federation and other members of the federation for their actions.

Opinions

07-37: The Commission on Ethics opined that the MWH Americas team may perform services related to upgrades to the Central District Wastewater Treatment Facility. However, the firm of Cardozo Engineering (a team member) is prohibited from performing any tasks as a subconsultant under the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan Update due to potentially overlapping responsibilities if the MWH Americas team is awarded the contract.

Regarding the North District Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Ethics Commission opined that the firm of Brown and Caldwell may serve as the Prime Consultant on the North District Wastewater Treatment Plant contract. However, Brown and Caldwell may not perform any services related to the North District Wastewater Treatment Plant in its capacity as a subconsultant on the Wastewater Facilities Master Plan Update if the firm is awarded the contract. CES Consultants, another subconsultant on the Water Facilities Master Plan Update, is also prohibited from performing any regulatory and permitting work related to the North District Wastewater Treatment Plant in its capacity as a subconsultant on the Wastewater Facilities Master Plan Update.

Regarding the South District Wastewater Treatment Plant, the firm of CH2mHill may serve as Prime Consultant on the South District Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades. The firm of Cardozo, serving on the CH2mHill team, is prohibited from performing any duties related to the South District Wastewater Facility in its capacity as a subconsultant on the Plan Update.

Regarding the Alexander Orr Water Treatment Plant, the firm of Camp, Dresser and McKee may serve as Prime Consultant for the Alexander Orr Water Treatment Plant if the Water and Sewer Department performs work related to prioritization, scheduling or recommendations regarding upgrades to the Plant to ensure there are no overlapping roles under CDM's contract as Prime Consultant on the Water Facilities Master Plan Upgrade Contract and also as Prime Consultant for the Orr Treatment Plant.

07-38: The Commission on Ethics opined that the president and principal shareholder of Meridian International Group, a governmental relations and consulting firm, must execute a withdrawal form for any lobbyist that is no longer authorized to represent a client of the firm. The company may submit a withdrawal form, signed by the head of the company, on behalf of any former employee. Any former employee is required to execute a new authorization form for any client of the company who retains the former employee.

07-39: The Commission on Ethics opined that a member of Community Council #14, who owns a company that provides consulting services on zoning and property tax appeals, is permitted to engage in consulting matters on zoning and property tax matters, but he or any member of his firm is prohibited from appearing before Community Council #14 on any matter. Further, the Community Council member is prohibited from voting on any matter involving any client of the company. The member may continue to serve on other county boards and attend meetings of county boards and departments as long as he does not engage in ex-parte communication regarding quasi-judicial matters that may come before the community council.

07-40: The Commission on Ethics opined that a former Senior Assistant City Attorney with the City of Miami Beach may not represent private clients on code enforcement matters before a Special Master in the City of Miami Beach because he is prohibited from lobbying his former government for two years from the date of his separation from the City of Miami Beach.

07-41: The Commission on Ethics opined that the Portico Group may provide architectural and engineering services related to Metrozoo as a subconsultant under the current solicitation for Metrozoo Improvements as long as the firm has not provided and will not provide any covered services under the 2000 agreement between the Portico Group and Miami-Dade County.

07-42: The Commission on Ethics opined that the president of the Vizcayans, a non-profit organization, who also serves as a member of the Vizcaya Museum Gardens and Trust, is permitted to vote on matters concerning the Vizcayans that come before the Vizcaya Trust, as she is not financially affected by the outcome of her vote.