



For Immediate Release: February 20, 2013  
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### **COE reminds all advisory board members to complete financial disclosure forms**

Even though some of the nearly 100 advisory boards to the Miami-Dade County Commission did not meet during 2012 because no issues arose requiring their action, members must still file financial disclosure statements. That's the response to a Request for Opinion (**RQO 13-01**) issued by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust today. The Commission determined that because advisory board members were approved and authorized to serve in 2012 and because they could have been exposed to undue influence associated with their membership, they must file financial disclosure statements by July 1, 2013, as must members of all County advisory boards.

In a related query (**RQO 13-02**), the Miami-Dade Elections Department was told it may accept financial disclosure forms that are filed electronically. The County Ethics Code doesn't mention the physical properties of the estimated 5,500 forms sent to the agency each year. The Ethics Commission concluded that the Elections Department may accept them via fax, e-mail or other devices compatible with its system, as long as security standards are followed.

In other action, Ethics Commissioners agreed to establish the second Thursday of each month to hold their regular monthly meetings. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 14, 2013, at 10 a.m.

Also today, Executive Director Joseph Centorino announced the promotion of three staff members, based on expanded responsibilities. Investigator **Karl Ross** is assuming the duties of Forensic Accountant. Staff Attorney **Victoria Frigo** is now Senior Staff Attorney. And, Community Outreach Coordinator **Rhonda Victor Sibilis** is taking the title of Communications Director.

*The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of education, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.*

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