

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
15-01	(e) RQO 02-46 <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. 112.3148	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant Miami-Dade Co. Attorney	The Co. Ethics Code does not prohibit the County from paying for the Co. Mayor's travel to the Florida Governor's inauguration because the Mayor's attendance at important governmental events is within the ambit of the Mayor's official functions. It is not considered a reportable gift to the Mayor because he is attending in his official capacity.
15-02	(e)(4), (e) RQO 09-04	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant Co. Attorney	Pursuant to the Co. Ethics Code, at Section 2-11.1(e)(4), an Assistant Co. Attorney who accepts a free plane ticket from a person or entity other than a County vendor, contractor, service provider, bidder or proposer should report the value of the ticket in a gift disclose form using the going rate for a commercial flight between the same locations.
15-03	(e)(2)(g), (g) RQO 06-05 RQO 08-25	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant Co. Attorney	The Co. Ethics Code does not prohibit a Co. Commissioner from utilizing his/her website to solicit donations for a private non-profit organization dedicated to supporting a non-discrimination policy adopted by the Co. Commission because, pursuant to Section 2-11.1(e)(2)(g), the organization is a qualified Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and neither the Commissioner nor his/her staff will receive a personal benefit as a result of the solicitation.
15-04	(s)(1)(b) <i>plain reading</i>	Edward Shohat, Attorney for former Town of Miami Lakes Mayor Michael Pizzi	An attorney appearing on behalf of the former Mayor of the Town of Miami Lakes to speak before the Town Council to persuade the Council not to defend a pending lawsuit filed by the former Mayor, which seeks to compel the Town to reinstate the former Mayor is required to register as a lobbyist and take the lobbyist ethics course.
15-05	(a),(bb) <i>plain reading</i>	Jean Olin, Attorney for the City of Miami Beach	Pursuant to Section 2-11.1(bb) of the Co. Ethics Code, City of Miami Beach elected officials are required to file an affidavit with the Ethics Commission stating that they have read the Miami-Dade Co. Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance and agree to comply with its provisions. The certificate of completion of an ethics course that the Ethics Commission presents to the official does not satisfy the affidavit requirement.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-06	(c)(2), (d)	Lynn Barrett, Chief Compliance Officer, Jackson Health Systems (JHS)	A prohibited conflict of interest does not exist where a JHS employee has supervisory authority over a construction bond program where a proposed sub-contractor for the program employs the JHS employee's husband because the husband does not have a controlling financial interest in the subcontracting company.
15-07	(e) RQO 06-05	Matt Haber, Assistant City Attorney, City of Miami	The Co. Ethics Code does not prohibit the City as an entity from entering in a City vendor's iPad raffle because the raffle is open not just to the City Attorney's office, but to all of the vendor's clients. However, if the City Attorney's office were to win, it would be prohibited from raffling the iPad to the employees of the City Attorney's Office because the iPad would become City property which can only be used in performance of the office's duties.
15-08	(g)	Esteban Bovo, Co. Commissioner, District # 13	A Co. Commissioner is not prohibited from sending constituents a mailer paid with taxpayer funds, to solicit public input regarding his constituents' support of or opposition to the proposed naming of an unincorporated area within the Commissioner's district, where a valid governmental purpose exists, there is no pending election, and no overt political agenda is involved.
15-09	(t)1.(a)(vi) RQO 09-06	Jose Smith, Esq., City Attorney, City of North Miami Beach	The Cone of Silence, at Section 2-11.1(t) of the County Ethics Code generally prohibits oral communications between a City Manager and members of a Selection Committee while the Cone is in place. However, Section 2-11.1(t)(1)(a)(vi) of the Cone of Silence permits communication between the City Manager and the Chairperson of the Selection Committee about a particular award recommendation following its submittal to the City Manager, provided that if any changes are made to that recommendation, the rationale for the change and the content of such communication is described in writing and filed by the City Manager with the Clerk of the Board.
15-10	(c)(3), (m)(2), (v) RQO 06-52 RQO 07-39	Brian Andrews, Brian Andrews USA, LLC.	A Co. advisory board member may contract with the Co. as long as the board on which he serves does not oversee the contract; he is not making presentations or seeking any benefits for himself or others from his board; and he does not vote on any matter where he would be directly affected by the vote and has an enumerated relationship with the entity before the board.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-11	(g) RQO 06-52	Marie Paule Woodson, Acting Assist. Dir., County Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD)	An Acting CAHSD Assistant Director does not have a prohibited conflict of interest between her Co. employment and her service as a volunteer Chair of the Board of the Haitian Women of Miami (FANM) where FANM is seeking to rent space at one of the Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs) administered by CAHSD. She does not have authority to make final decisions about the rental of space at the NSCs and she would not receive a personal or financial benefit related to any rental contract entered into between FANM and CAHSD.
15-12	(d) RQO 11-27 RQO 07-54	Rebeca Sosa, County Commissioner, District #9	A Co. Commissioner who is employed by the School Board may vote on a matter related to Value Adjustment Board Proceedings concerning the overall funding provided to the School District from Miami-Dade County tax revenues because there is no direct correlation between her position with the school district and this item. The school district is a vast enterprise and any change in funding to the overall district from this measure would have no perceptible effect on the Commissioner or her position with the School Board.
15-13	(g) RQO 07-54	Rebeca Sosa, County Commissioner, District #9	A Co. Commissioner who is employed by the School Board does not violate the Ethics Code by participating in a tour of the Robert Morgan Educational Center operated by the Miami-Dade Public Schools with Governor Rick Scott, & Rep. Erik Fresen because there is no political or non-governmental purpose behind this tour, and the Commissioner would not personally benefit or be enhanced, financially by participation in the tour.
15-14	(j) RQO 08-29 RQO 05-140	Carolina Lopez, Deputy Supervisor, County Elections Dept.	A Co. employee engages in outside employment when he/she is compensated for providing marketing services to a private entity because he/she is providing the type of personal services to the non-County employer that is compensated or customarily compensated. Consequently, these employees should file the Request to Engage in Outside Employment form & the Outside Employment Statement on a yearly basis.
15-15	(d) RQO 06-64 RQO 07-12	Matt Haber, Assistant City Attorney, City of Miami	A City of Miami Commissioner is prohibited from appointing his business partner to a public board on which the Commissioner also sits because "partner" is one of the relationships identified in the County Ethics Code that creates a <i>per se</i> voting conflict.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-16	(i)(1) RQO 04-198	Ahmad Tavakoly, Board Member, County Asian American Advisory Board	Co. Board Members must file financial disclosure statements on a yearly basis; they satisfy the requirement by submitting a County "Statement of Income" form, a State Form 1 "Statement of Financial Interest," or a federal income tax return for the year they are disclosing.
15-17	(g) RQO 07-54	Rebeca Sosa, County Commissioner, District #9	A Co. Commissioner who is employed by the School Board does not violate the Ethics Code by working to find and create greater opportunities for facilities and programs geared toward educating and caring for those with autism because there is no political or non-governmental purpose behind this work, and the Commissioner would not personally benefit or be enhanced, financially or otherwise, by these programs.
15-18	(s)(1)(b) <i>directed to</i> County Code at Sec. 2-11.1.2	Lucia Dougherty, Attorney, Greenberg Traurig	A law firm that represents the Co. on bond issues is engaged in legal work, not lobbying. The law firm's representation of an appeal of an historic designation, if it involves only representation of a client at a quasi-judicial hearing, is exempt from the lobbyist ordinance. Therefore, there is no necessity for the firm to apply for a lobbyist waiver from the County, though it should consult with the County Attorney regarding a legal conflict.
15-19	(c)(5)(5) RQO 09-20 <i>directed to</i> City of Miami Code at Sec. 2- 612(a)	Arianna Prieto, Engineering Assistant, City of Miami Public Works Dept.	An exception under Section (c)(5)(5) of the Co. Ethics Code allows a City employee to participate in housing assistance programs through the City of Miami Department of Community Development (DCD) if the employee otherwise qualifies for the program and is not involved in administering the program.
15-20	(e)(3) (e)(4) RQO 02-46	Victoria Mendez, City Attorney, City of Miami	The Co. Ethics Code does not prohibit a City of Miami officer or employee from accepting a complimentary ticket valued at \$35 from the Latin Builders Association for attendance at its private membership cocktail, provided that acceptance of the gift does not violate the City of Miami Code, Ordinances, or Charter, and if there is no quid pro quo arrangement. The complimentary ticket is not a reportable gift because it is valued at less than \$100.
15-21	(s) RQO 11-26	Miguel De Grandy, Partner/Lobbyist, Holland & Knight	A private attorney who contacts the City of Miami to present his client's claim for reimbursement of all or a portion of an application fee and who acts as the client's attorney in connection with the claim is engaged in the practice of law and thus is not required to register as a lobbyist under Section (s) of the Ethics Code.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-22	(j),(k) RQO 12-11 <i>directed to</i> County Code Sec. 2-11	Santiago Pastoriza, Procurement Officer, Miami-Dade County Internal Services Department (ISD)	Although opinions regarding possible conflicts of interest in outside employment and outside employment guidelines presented by the Ethics Commission staff may serve as an aid, final determination as to whether a Co. employee should engage in outside employment is at the discretion of his/her supervisor.
15-23	(d) RQO 07-54	Chris Agrippa, Clerk of the Board, Miami-Dade County Commission	A Co. Commissioner who, as a private citizen, submits paperwork for a citizen referendum item to be placed on a ballot may participate and vote on the matter when it comes before the Co. Commission because the Commissioner does not have a prohibited relationship related to the matter, he will not directly or indirectly profit or be enhanced by the vote, and the vote will not affect him any differently than it would affect the general public.
15-24	(e) RQO 02-46 RQO 05-110	Matthew Haber, Assistant City Attorney, City of Miami	City of Miami officials may accept the gift of Coconut Grove Arts Festival tickets valued at \$5 from a donor because neither the donor nor the Coconut Grove Arts Festival is a City vendor, creditor or lobbyist. The gift is not prohibited as long as the gift is not given with the expectation that a special benefit from the City will be given in return. City officials must report the tickets as gifts, if the aggregate value of the tickets exceeds \$100.
15-29	(a) <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. Chapter 718	Antonio Atala, Condominium Board Member	A Homeowners Association is not a public board created by local government, and therefore, is not subject to the Co. Ethics Code.
15-30	(s)(3)(b), (s)(2)(d) RQO 10-09	Jose Diaz, Lobbyist, Professional Wrecker Operators of Florida	A Principal who lobbies on behalf of his company must register as a lobbyist, but is not required to pay registration fees and must also complete the lobbyist ethics training and pay training fee.
15-31	(v)	Bianca Caviglia, Aide to Miami-Dade Commissioner Juan Zapata	Where the duties of the members of the Court Capital Infrastructure Task Force are not expected to include actions or recommendations directed toward specific private business interests, no prohibited conflicts of interest would arise under the Co. Ethics Code. Pursuant to Section 2-11.1(v) of the Ethics Code, a board member is not prohibited from voting on matters if the board member will not be directly affected by the vote and/or he/she has no prohibited business relationships with the applicants.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-32	(s)(3)(b) (s)(2)(d) RQO 10-09 RQO 11-28	Javier Vasquez, Esq., Berger Singerman LLP	A Principal who lobbies on behalf of his company must register as a lobbyist, but is not required to pay registration fees and must also complete the lobbyist ethics training and pay training fee.
15-33	(i) <i>Plain meaning</i>	Carolina Lopez, Deputy Elections Supervisor	A Co. employee who submits a Source of Income Form without itemizing his or her source or sources of income does not meet the requirements set out in Section 2- 11.1(i). The incomplete form must be returned to the employee in order for them to provide the required information.
15-34	(c), (m)(1) RQO 07-39 RQO 07-45	Geraldine Lazarre, TriMerge Consulting Group, P.A.,	A private company with a shareholder who serves on the Miami-Dade Black Affairs Advisory Board (BAAB) and on the Jackson Health System General Obligation Bond Citizens Advisory Committee Board (JMH/GOB) may apply for a Mom & Pop grant as long as the grant is not administered by either BAAB or JMH/GOB) and she does not lobby on behalf of the private company.
15-35	(x) RQO 11-14 INQ 12-62	Manny Sarria, Deputy Director, Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust	Pursuant to Section (x) of the Co. Ethics Code, a former employee of Citrus Health Network (CHN), an entity which has previously applied for and received funding from the Home/Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) selection committee, is prohibited from performing any Co. contract duties or actions related to CHN for a period of two (2) years following termination of his relationship with CHN, and thus may not serve on the Home/ESG selection committee within the two-year period.
15-36	(i) <i>directed to</i> IRS 1.2.12.1.5 (07-26 - 2011), Policy Statement 3-5.	Carolina Lopez, Deputy Supervisor of Elections, Government Affairs Division, Miami-Dade Co. Elections Dept.	An unsigned federal income tax return does not satisfy the requirements of Section (i) of the County Ethics Code because an unsigned income tax return is invalid pursuant to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) policies.
15-37	(i) <i>Plain meaning</i>	Carolina Lopez, Deputy Supervisor of Elections, Govn't Affairs Division, Miami-Dade Co. Elections Dept.	An Assistant County Attorney satisfies the financial disclosure requirements in Section (i) of the County Ethics Code by filing a State Form 1 because State Form 1 lists the filer's public position.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-38	(e), (g) COE Public Benefit Ticket Policy and Addendum	Liliana Collazo, Assistant to the Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor, Miami-Dade Co.	Complimentary Miami-Dade Co. Youth Fair tickets provided by the Youth Fair, a Co. contractor, to the Co. Mayor's Office for distribution to the public must be distributed in a way that benefits the public and may not be used for personal purposes in violation of Section (g) of the Co. Ethics Code.
15-39	(e) RQO 11-18	Victoria Mendez, City Attorney, City of Miami	Pursuant to Section (e) of the Co. Ethics Code, City of Miami elected officials must report the receipt of complimentary VIP Formula E race tickets valued at over \$100 if the officials are merely attending the event and mingling with other guests because the officials are not attending in their official capacity, thus are not serving a public benefit. The provision of complimentary VIP Formula E race tickets to the officials' spouses or guests must also be reported.
15-40	(d) RQO 06-64	Vivian Castro, Legislative Director, Office of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa,	A Co. Commissioner who is an employee of the School Board may vote on matters related to the School Board because the outcome of the vote does not directly or indirectly affect the Commissioner, her district, her school department, or her program.
15-41	(j), (k) RQO 09-16 RQO 12-11	Joan Shen, Chief, Traffic Engineering Division, Miami-Dade County Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Co. Ethics Code, a Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM) employee whose primary responsibilities include designing roadways for effective traffic flow and safety may provide interior design services for private individuals because this outside employment would not impair his independence of judgment in performing his Co. duties. The private employment is not related to his Co. duties, would not conflict with his Co. employment hours, would not involve work with a Co. vendor, and would not require him to lobby the Co. on behalf of his private company.
15-42	(e)(2)(g) RQO 06-05 RQO 08-25	Raul Aguila, Miami Beach Attorney, on behalf of Mayor Philip Levine	Pursuant to Section (e) of the Co. Ethics Code, the City of Miami Beach Mayor should not include language in a letter that may be construed as a solicitation of funds on behalf of an organization that is not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization as defined in the Internal Revenue Code.
15-43	(s) RQO 06-63 RQO 10-28	Andrea Jamel, Marketing & Business Relationship Manager, DMS Disaster Consultants	A private firm that conducts business as a disaster management consultant to PHT/JHS hospitals in Miami-Dade County is not required to complete lobbyist registration. However, in the future, if the private firm markets its services or negotiates contract terms with PHT/JHS, registration as a lobbyist is required.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-44	(t) RQO 05-27 <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. §286.011	Marie Clark-Vincent, Miami-Dade County Aviation	Pursuant to Florida's Sunshine Law & Section (t) of the Co. Ethics Code, a strategy meeting conducted by an evaluation/selection committee formed to consider proposals for Baggage Handling Systems Operations & Maintenance for Miami International Airport must be conducted in public.
15-45	(e) RQO 02-46	Matthew Haber, Assistant City Attorney, City of Miami	City of Miami officials may accept complimentary admission to the Miami Beach Mayor's reception celebrating Miami Beach's centennial because the event serves a public purpose & the officials are invited by virtue of their public positions in a municipality that adjoins Miami Beach. The City of Miami officials would be required to report the attendance of their spouses or guests at the event because it does not serve a public purpose.
15-46	<i>directed to</i> Miami-Dade County Resolution R-736-07 & Fla. Stat. §112.3135	Theresa Sarano, Human Resources Manager, Career Services of South Florida	The Co. Ethics Code does not contain a Nepotism provision. However, the Co. Nepotism Policy encourages department directors to refrain from maintaining relatives in close proximity in a departmental subunit.
15-47	(s) <i>Plain meaning</i>	Chad Friedman, Attorney, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole Bierman	Where nothing is pending before the municipality; no proposal has been formalized, written, or submitted; & there has not been a decision as to whether a proposal will even be submitted, a private attorney who meets with municipal officials is not required to register as a lobbyist pursuant to Section (s) of the Co. Ethics Code because the meeting would be considered a "meet and greet" preliminary meeting.
15-48	(s)	Evelyn Campos, Director, Professional Compliance Division, Aviation Dept. (MIA)	A proposed MIA Aviation Departmental Standard Operating Procedure (DSOP) for lobbyists complies with the County Ethics Code if it includes the lobbyist registration, training, & reporting requirements enumerated in Sec. 2-11.1(s) & COE opinions for (s).
15-49	(j) RQO 10-08 RQO 12-07	Neil McKay, Corporate Director, Physician Services, Jackson Health Systems	The Assistant Medical Director of JHS, whose job includes recommending medication & medical devices to patients, & participating in JHS' Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (which selects drugs listed in JHS's drug formulary) should be denied permission to engage in outside employment as a paid private consultant for private medical vendors that supply drugs and/or medical devices to JHS. His outside employment is closely related to the work he performs at JHS which would likely create divided loyalties which could affect his ability to exercise independent judgment in the performance of his official duties at JHS.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-50	(c), (d) RQO 00-13	Paul Beckford, Waste Attendant 1, Public Works and Waste Management Department (PWWM)	A PWWM employee may contract with the County through his privately owned lawn services and maintenance company, but may not contract with PWWM.
15-51	(q) RQO 12-09 RQO 14-02	Craig Coller, Assistant County Attorney, Miami-Dade Co.	The County Ethics Code two-year rule does not prohibit a retired Assistant Miami-Dade County Attorney from working as a special magistrate before the Valuation Adjustment Board (VAB) because the VAB is a state board created by Florida Statutes and is governed by state law. Additionally, the position does not involve lobbying so it would be permissible even if it were a County agency.
15-52	(n) RQO 05-43	Lucia Davis-Raiford, Director, Co. Community Action and Human Services (CAHSD)	The Co. Ethics Code does not cover the Director of the South Florida Behavioral Network, Inc., (SFBN) a private non-profit corporation, or the position of Drug Court judge, who is a State of Florida employee. However, under general conflict of interest guidelines, neither the SFBN Director or Drug Court judge would have a conflict serving on a selection/evaluation committee formed to select a contractor to provide non-residential drug treatment services to the Drug Court, as long as neither party has any private financial interest in the outcome of the selection committee.
15-53	(j) RQO 05-43 RQO 05-145	Clarence Brown, Division Director, County Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD)	A PHCD Director does not have a conflict of interest serving as a PHCD representative on the South Florida Workforce Investment Board because the Director's service on the board is directly connected to his public duties and he does not have any private financial interests in any of the matters considered by the board.
15-54	(i) RQO 13-01	Antoinette Jean-Baptiste, Board Coordinator, CareerSource South Florida	Members of the South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWI) satisfy financial disclosure requirements by filing either State Form 1 or State Form 6 depending on their status under state financial disclosure laws. Board members, who do not have a State financial disclosure requirement, file a County Source of Income Statement with the Co. Elections Department.
15-55	(d) RQO 05-43	Barbara Jordan, Co. Commissioner Dist. # 1	A Co. Commissioner may sit as an unpaid board member on the South Florida Workforce Investment Board ("SFWIB") because both the Co. Commission and the SFWIB are governmental entities, the SFWIB position is unpaid, the Commissioner has no financial or other personal interest in the SFWIB or on matters coming before the SFWIB, and her service on the SFWIB is consistent with her duties as a County Commissioner.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-56	(m)(1) RQO 12-10	Vanessa Palacio, Special Projects Administrator, Miami-Dade Co. Public Works and Waste Management Dept. (PWWM)	A Special Projects Administrator for the Co. PWWM Department is prohibited from representing a private law client as a private attorney before the Miami-Dade Co. Commission on Human Rights because pursuant to Section 2-11.1(m)(1) of the County Ethics Code, Co. employees are prohibited from appearing before any Co. board or agency on behalf of a third person.
15-57	(w) RQO 05-110	Jimmy Nares, Chief, Economic Development and International Trade Unit, Miami-Dade Co. Dept. of Regulatory and Economic Resources	Private parties who travel with Co. officials on a business development mission are not prohibited from accepting travel expenses paid through donations by County vendors, because the prohibition on the payment of travel expenses in Section 2-11.1(w) of the Co. Ethics Code does not extend to private sector parties. A good faith attempt is required to apportion the cost attributable to public and private participants, in order to fund them separately.
15-58	(i)(2) RQO 04-198 <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. 112.3145 (1)(a)(3).	Carolina Lopez, Deputy Supervisor of Elections, Government Affairs Division, Miami-Dade County Elections Dept.	Section 2-11.1(i) of the Co. Ethics Code does not specify whether Division Heads or Division Directors are subject to financial disclosure filing requirements. However, Co. Departments may create internal policies requiring individuals who have authority to serve as designees of Department, Assistant Dept., or Deputy Directors, or who are in positions comparable in authority and responsibility to that of Department or Assistant Department Directors, to file financial disclosure forms.
15-59	(j) RQO 12-11	Roberto Gonzalez, Physician, Jackson Health Services (JHS)	A supervisor at JHS has discretion to prohibit a physician from maintaining a private practice while employed by JHS as Associate Medical Director because of a perceived conflict of interest.
15-60	(t) RQO 10-13	Robert de la Fuente, Attorney, Lehtinen Schultz Riedi Catalano de la Fuente PLLC	Under the Co. Cone of Silence Ordinance, the Cone is imposed upon advertisement of a procurement matter and is lifted upon the recommendation made to the final decision-making body. Consequently, once a Request to Qualify (RTQ) is completed, the Cone is lifted and communication with Co. officials would be permissible. When a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is subsequently advertised, the Cone will again be imposed until a recommendation for award is made.
15-61	(v), (m)(2), (g), (j) RQO 06-52	Stanley J. Krieger, Attorney, and Board member, City of Miami Charter Review and Reform Committee (CRRC)	A City of Miami CMCRRC board member may serve on the board at the same time that his employer has a lawsuit against the city as long as he will not be directly affected by any of the board's actions; he will not vote on matters directly affecting his employer; he will not appear before the city on behalf of his employer; and he does not use his official position to gain special privileges or exemptions for his employer.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-62	(g)	Anita Jiro, Corporal, Miami-Dade Corrections Dept.	The issue of work bullying is not covered by the County Ethics Code. This is a personnel issue that should be addressed through the County's administrative processes. However, if County employee were to abuse his or her superior position to bully a subordinate, it could constitute a violation of Section 2-11.1(g) of the County Ethics Code which prohibits a County employee from exploiting his or her public position to secure special privileges or exemptions.
15-63	-- <i>directed to,</i> Sunshine Law, F.S. 286.011	Amos Roundtree, Director of Purchasing DIV/COMPET County Internal Services Department (ISD)	An ISD Director of Purchasing may hold a meeting on a procurement matter and invite a staff member from each of two Co. Commission offices as long as staff members limit the discussion to questions and answers about the issue under consideration & do not indirectly transmit communications between Commissioners.
15-64	(w), (e)(4) <i>directed to</i> City of Miami Code Section 2- 613	Mathew Haber, Assistant City Attorney, City of Miami	The waiver provision of Section 2-11.1(w) of the Co. Ethics Code on acceptance of travel expenses by city officials & employees from City vendors does not also waive the gift reporting requirement in Section 2-11.1(e)(4) of the Co. Ethics Code. Consequently, a City of Miami official who accepted a gift pursuant to the waiver would have to disclose a gift in excess of \$100.
15-65	(q) RQO 12-09	Michael Davey, former Councilman, Village of Key Biscayne	The two-year rule (Section 2-11.1(q)) does not bar a former Village of Key Biscayne Councilman from drafting an ordinance that would be sent to the Village Attorneys for possible presentation to the Village Council. The former Councilman should not have any interaction with Village officials, including the City Attorney, regarding the ordinance.
15-66	(q) RQO 12-09	Clarence Brown, Division Director, PHCD	The two-year rule does not prohibit a recently retired County employee employed by a nonprofit from representing a nonprofit entity in a contract agreement with the County's PHCD's department because the two-year rule prohibition on lobbying does not apply to Co. employees representing a non-profit, governmental or educational entity.
15-67	S. Miami Code at Sec. 8A-1(b), (d), (f), (l), (v)	Thomas Pepe, City Attorney, City of South Miami	A City of South Miami Planning Board member may serve on the board at the same time that his employer has a contract with the city as long as the board member has less than a 10% financial interest in the company; he will not appear before the city on behalf of his employer; he will not vote on matters directly affecting his employer; and he discloses his business relationship on a sworn statement filed with the Board Clerk.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-68	(v)	Gary Appel, Esq., Member of Miami-Dade Co. Historic Preservation Board	A member of the Miami-Dade Co. Historic Preservation Board is not prohibited from voting on a historic preservation designation for a building owned in part by a managing partner of an LLC that owns properties represented by the Board Member's tax firm as long as he does not personally benefit from the vote.
15-69	(m)	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant Co. Attorney	The spouse of a Co. employee is not prohibited from lobbying the Co. on behalf of a private client where the matter in question would not be related in any way to the spouse's Co. employment; it would not involve the department where the spouse works; & the spouse would have no contact with the issue in either a decision-making or oversight capacity.
15-70	(e)(2)(g) RQO 08-25	Esteban Bovo, Vice- Chair, Miami-Dade Co. Commission	Pursuant to an exemption provided in Section (e)(2)(g) of the Co. Ethics Code, a Co. Commissioner may solicit donations for the FIU Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The donations will be utilized solely by that organization, and neither the Commissioner nor any member of his staff will receive any compensation as a result of the solicitation.
15-71	(j) COE Outside Employment Memo (2014)	Cecilia Brewer- McDuffie, Chief of Human Resources, WASD	A WASD employee may volunteer to assist a Girl Scout Troop in obtaining CPR merit badges for troop members, because the employee's volunteer activities for the Girl Scouts is unlikely to impair his/her independence of judgment in the performance of his/her public duties. Furthermore, given that such traditional volunteer work is customarily uncompensated, it is not considered outside employment. Consequently, there is no need for the employee to complete a Permission to Engage in outside Employment Form.
15-72	(e)(2)(c), (e)(4) RQO 02-46 RQO 05-110 RQO 07-28	Mathew Haber, Assistant City Attorney, City of Miami	Commemorative gifts valued at \$114 purchased by the Miami Bayfront Management Trust for its members require gift disclosure under Section (e)(4) of the Ethics Code because the amount exceeds \$100. However if each of the board members reimburses the Trust in the amount of \$14, the gifts would not need to be reported, because the net gift would not exceed the reportable amount of \$100.
15-73	(d) RQO 06-52	Dr. Erhabor Ighodaro, Council Member, City of Miami Gardens	A city council member who is Executive Director of the African Museum of Arts & Culture, a nonprofit organization, may not participate or vote on a matter concerning the City's endorsement of a grant application to the State by the nonprofit organization because the council member has a prohibited relationship, ie., Executive Director, with the non-profit which will be directly affected by the vote.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-74	(d) RQO 06-64 RQO 10-20	Linda Miller, Town Attorney, Town of Surfside	The Mayor of the Town of Surfside has a prohibited conflict of interest that precludes him from voting on a traffic plan of action specific to his residential street because it would have a direct impact on his property and he may directly or indirectly profit or be enhanced by the action.
15-75	(e) <i>directed to</i> Fla.Stat. 112.3148	Jeannette Garcia- Amodeo, Special Projects Coordinator & Liason to Miami-Dade Youth Commission, Juvenile Svcs. Division	Private groups may provide venue and refreshments for the Miami Youth Commission, a County agency which is sponsoring a reception for members of the BCC, provided these private groups are not County lobbyists, vendors or political committees, and the value of the contribution does not exceed \$100 per elected official.
15-76	(c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(4) RQO 00-13	Yolanda Sanchez, Director of Fine Arts, Aviation Dept.	The husband of a Co. employee may contract with the Co. to perform unique art-related services, but may not contract with the Aviation Dept. that employs his wife.
15-77	(j) RQO 99-50 AO 7-1	Evelyn Campos, Professional Compliance Division Director, MIA	An MIA Property Manager, whose duties include the oversight of non-terminal leases, should not teach aviation courses for Miami-Dade College's School of Aviation, which is an MIA leaseholder, because it is likely that this type of outside employment will create conflicting loyalties which will impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her official duties.
15-78	(e) <i>directed to</i> S. Miami Code at sec. 8A-1 (e) (2), (3)	Thomas E. Pepe, City Attorney, City of South Miami	Under the City of South Miami Code, a charitable donation does not fall under the exceptions for gift solicitations. Consequently, a City of South Miami Commissioner is prohibited from participating or promoting an event where a nonprofit organization will be receiving a donation from the event's registration fee.
15-79	(v) RQO 06-52	Juan Zapata, Co. Commissioner, District 11	A member of the Public Private Partnership Task Force (P3), a County advisory board, should avoid voting on any matter on which the member's private firm could foreseeably end up contracting with the Co. Additionally, the Co. should avoid appointing a person who is an "officer, director, partner, of counsel, consultant, employee, fiduciary or beneficiary" of a private entity that intends or expects to bid at one of the board's recommended projects.
15-80	(e)(2)(e) RQO 02-46	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant Miami-Dade County Attorney	A Co. Commissioner may solicit a donation from Citibank to fund a FIU study related to community wealth building because the donation clearly serves a Co. purpose and is solicited by the Commissioner for use solely by the Co. and in furtherance of official Co. business. The donation is not a reportable gift under the Co. Code.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-81	(d), (n) RQO 06-64	Anthony De Fillipo, Councilman, City of North Miami Beach	A City Commissioner, whose father has a business relationship with a bidding company, may participate and vote on a RFP involving the bidding company because the Commissioner himself does not have any of the prohibited relationships with the company and he will not personally profit or be enhanced by the vote. Additionally, neither the Commissioner nor his father has a financial interest in the company which would prohibit him from taking official action.
15-82	(m)(2) RQO 06-52	Jonathan Fried, Member, Miami-Dade Co. Living Wage Commission	A board member may apply for an impact grant from a Co. Commissioner on behalf of a non-profit organization where the board member serves as Executive Director because he is not seeking a benefit from the Co. board on which he serves.
15-83	(m)(2) RQO 06-52	Monica Vignes-Pitan, Member, Services Development Committee, Homeless Trust Board	A board member may apply for an impact grant from the Board of Commissioners on behalf of a non-profit entity where she is employed as Advocacy Director for Legal Services, because the board member is not seeking a benefit from the county board on which she serves.
15-84	(i) RQO 13-01	Norman A. Hegedus, Planner for Airside Operations, MIA	Because the MIA Neighborhood Relations Committee (MIANRC) was in existence in 2013 and 2014, its members must file financial disclosure forms for those years even if MIANRC did not meet during those years.
15-85	(v) RQO 06-52 <i>directed to</i> Fla.Stats. 112.313(17) and 112.313(1)	Rondrea S. Harris, Exec. Sec. Of Miami-Dade County Library Advisory Board On behalf of Lynn Summers, Prospective Board Appointee	A member/director of Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library, a nonprofit entity, is not prohibited from serving on the Miami-Dade County Library Advisory Board as long as she recuses herself and abstains from voting on any matters presented by the nonprofit entity where she would be directly affected by the action of the board.
15-86	(v) <i>directed to</i> City of South Miami Code 8A-1 (1)(2), (b)(8), (d), (i)	Thomas Pepe, City Attorney, City of South Miami	A City of South Miami board member may serve on the Planning Board at the same time that his employer serves as temporary Planning & Zoning Director where the employer is an independent contractor/ part-time salaried employee of the city, as long as the board member has no financial interest in the employer firm; does not appear before the board on behalf of his employer; does not vote on matters directly affecting his employer; does not disclose confidential information he receives as a result of his board service; and discloses his business relationship and lack of financial interest in a sworn statement filed with the Clerk of the Board.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-87	(e) RQO 06-05 <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stats. 112.312(12), 112.3148	Elinette Ruiz, Attorney/ Lobbyist, Arnstein & Lehr	While Co. lobbyists are not permitted to provide gifts to elected officials in excess of \$100, political contributions are not considered gifts and are permitted as long as there is no <i>quid pro quo</i> arrangement intended to influence any official action.
15-88	(b)(13) RQO 07-59	Manuel Alonso-Poch, Co-Bond Counsel for Miami-Dade Co. Authorities	A Co-Bond counsel for Miami-Dade Co. Authorities is not subject to the Co. Ethics Code unless designated as such pursuant to the Co. Code at Sec 2-11.1(b)(13).
15-89	(d) RQO 11-27	Bradley Zappala, Attorney, Office of North Bay Village Attorney, on behalf of Jorge Gonzalez, Vice- Mayor, City of North Bay Village	The Vice Mayor of a city may vote on an item affecting real property behind the condominium building where he resides and serves as condo association president because the condo association has not taken any position on the item and, as one of several hundred residents, he will not be uniquely affected nor will he profit or be enhanced directly or indirectly by the vote.
15-90	(g) RQO 05-06	Betty Aguirre, Commission Aide, Office of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, Dist. 6	Given the apparent partisan nature of the event, a Commissioner may not utilize funds from her office to pay for a Republican Party sponsored dinner for senior citizens interested in the presidential campaign of Marco Rubio.
15-91	(s) RQO 06-04	Evelyn Campos, Director, Professional Compliance Division of Miami-Dade Aviation Department	Pursuant to section 2-11.1(s) of the Ethics Code, a sales representative at the Miami-Dade Aviation Department would not be considered a lobbyist if he is merely servicing an existing contract or providing technical information about a product, without attempting to influence a decision that would ultimately go to a Co. board or committee.
15-92	(e)(1), (e)(4) RQO 02-46	Marlene Marante, Town Clerk/Director of Code Compliance, Village of Biscayne Park	The Village of Biscayne Park Clerk/Director of Code Compliance may accept wedding gifts from her co-workers and elected officials, as long as she discloses any gifts exceeding \$100.
15-93	(s) <i>plain meaning</i>	Louis A. Noriega, Automated Port Solutions, former CIO, Port of Miami	Pursuant to section 2-11.1(s) of the Ethics Code, a former County employee who wishes to schedule meetings with County staff to discuss the services of his private company would not be considered a lobbyist only if he is merely servicing an existing contract or providing technical information about a product, without attempting to influence a decision that would ultimately go to a County board or committee. Efforts to influence official action which foreseeably will be reviewed by the County Commission or a County board or committee would require registration as a lobbyist.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-94	(w) RQO 05-110	Tim Gomez, Representative of LAYNE, a Co. bidder with Miami-Dade County Water & Sewer Dept. (WASD)	Co. employees may not accept travel-related expenses that include restaurant meals from a Co. vendor while attending a conference in Anaheim, California, unless they obtain a waiver from the Board of Co. Commissioners.
15-95	(d) <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stats. 112.012, 112.3143(3)	Linda Miller, Town Attorney, Town of Surfside	Section 2-11.1(d) of the Ethics Code requires an elected official to absent themselves when there is a voting conflict, & Sec. 112.3143(3) Fla Stat. also requires that the individual announce the conflict publicly prior to the vote and file a report with the Clerk of the Board documenting the conflict within 15 days of the vote. However, there is no requirement under either Co. Ordinance or State law for an elected official to file such a form for a mere absence. Unless the absence is caused by a conflict, the voting official does not need to document the reason for the absence.
15-96	(s) (1)(b), (2) and (3)(b) <i>plain meaning</i>	Felix Lasarte, Lasarte Law Firm Lobbyist	Under the Co. Ethics Code, a principal who engages in lobbying must register as a lobbyist and take the ethics course, but he is exempted from paying the registration fee. However, pursuant to an exemption in the lobbyist ordinance at Section 2-11.1(1)(b), an individual who only attends a meeting to answer technical questions or provide information requested by Co. personnel is not required to register as a lobbyist.
15-97	(t)1.(a)(vii) RQO 10-13	Brian O'Connor, Procurement Director, City of North Miami Beach	Section 2-11.1(t) of the Co. Ethics Code prohibits oral communications regarding an RFP between city staff & potential vendors/service providers while the Cone of Silence is in place. However, Section 2-11.1(t)1(a)(vii) of the Cone of Silence permits communications between a city consultant on an RFP & potential vendors/ service providers on matters of process or procedure contained in the solicitation documents.
15-98	(p),(j) RQO 12-11	LaCelveia Morley, Asst. to the Director, on behalf of Kevin Kirwin, Parks Director, City of Miami	The Co. Ethics Code does not specifically prohibit the appointment of the City Parks Director to Friends of Belafonte-Tacolcy Park (FOBT), a nonprofit organization formed to raise funds on behalf of Belafonte-Tacolcy Center, Inc. (BTC), which contracts with the City to provide after-school programs. However, the Director should decline appointment to FOBT because as the city's Parks Director, he oversees the Belafonte-Tacolcy Park & the appointment may place him in a situation where he or his board might recommend the continued services of BTC, in violation of section 2-11.1(p) of the Co. Ethics Code. Also, the director's efforts on behalf of FOBT could interfere with his independence of judgment regarding allocation of City resources to BTC or to other parks under his supervision.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-99	(e)(4) RQO 02-46 Addendum to COE “Ticket Policy”	Michael J. Weiss, Office of the Mayor, on behalf of Alina Hudak, Deputy Mayor, Miami-Dade Co.	A Co. Deputy Mayor may accept complimentary admission to an event to present a proclamation from the Co. because the event serves a public purpose related to her duties as Deputy Mayor. However, the attendance of her spouse at the event is a reportable gift to the official.
15-100	(g), (j),(k), (c)(2), (d), (m)(1) RQO 00-13	James Wright, Security Supervisor, Miami-Dade Co. Water & Sewer Department (WASD)	A Co. employee may contract with the Co. through his privately-owned security company, but he may not contract with WASD, the department that employs him, and he may not lobby the Co. for the contract.
15-101	(d) RQO 06-64 RQO 11-27	Gerald Sanchez, Asst. Cty. Atty., on behalf of Esteban Bovo, Co. Commissioner Dist. # 13	A Co. Commissioner, who is employed as a private consultant by Miami Children’s Hospital (MCH), has a prohibited conflict of interest in voting on or participating in a matter involving the de-regulation of fees charged by local hospitals for helicopter transportation because, as a result of his consultant position with MCH, he might, directly or indirectly, profit or be enhanced by the action.
15-102	-- <i>directed to Sunshine Law at Fla. Stat. 286.011</i>	Valerie Trueba, Commission Aide, Office of Commissioner Xavier Suarez, Dist. #7	The Sunshine Law does not cover oral or written communications by a Co. Commissioner involving matters that will not be considered by the Board of Co. Commissioners. The Commissioner may communicate in a written memo with another Commissioner concerning a pending matter if the memo is filed with the clerk, but should explicitly state in the memo that no other board member should reply to it because a response would amount to a prohibited two-way communication with a board member.
15-103	(s)(3)(b) <i>plain meaning</i>	Siuby Fleites, Sr. Legal Secretary, Holland & Knight/Lobbyist	A principal who is an applicant for a change in a Comprehensive Development Master plan who engages in lobbying is required to register and take the lobbyist course, but is exempt from the registration fee.
15-104	(s)(3)(a) <i>plain meaning</i>	Eve Boutsis, Deputy City Attorney, City of Miami Beach	Pursuant to Section 2-11.1(s)(3)(a) of the Co. Ethics Code, any municipal officers, employees or appointees who appear in their official capacity before a city board are exempt from the lobbyist registration requirements.
15-105	(d), (v) RQO 06-52 RQO 07-35	David Young, Vice Chair, City of Miami Planning & Zoning Board	A City of Miami Planning & Zoning Board member may vote on matters being presented by a law firm which contributed to the board member’s judicial campaign because judicial campaign contributions do not generally result in a prohibited conflict of interest because the board member will not be directly affected by the vote; and he has no relationship with the law firm that will automatically create a conflict.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-106	(c)(5)(5) RQO 09-20 <i>directed to</i> City of Miami Code Section 2- 612(a)	Cynthia Cruz, Administrative Assistant to City of Miami Commissioner Keon Hardemon	An exception under the City of Miami code at Section 2-612(a) and Section (c)(5)(5) of the Co. Ethics Code allows a City employee to participate in housing assistance programs through the City of Miami Department of Community Development (DCD) if the employee otherwise qualifies for the program and is not involved in administering the program.
15-107	-- <i>directed to</i> Sunshine Law at Fla. Stat. 286.011	Steve Barrett, Chair, Opa-locka Task Force on Municipal Finance	The Opa-locka Task Force on Municipal Finance, a municipal advisory board created by the Opa-locka Mayor, is subject to the Florida Sunshine Law and the Miami-Dade Co. Citizens' Bill of Rights.
15-108	(z)	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant Co. Attorney on behalf of Danielle Levine Cava, Co. Commissioner	A Co. Commissioner is not prohibited from meeting with a subcontractor on an existing Co. contract regarding a dispute with the Co. contractor if she makes no reference to any existing claim, lawsuit, or any possible settlement involving the Co. contractor or the Co. without getting prior approval from the BCC.
15-109	(d) RQO 07-54	Vivian Castro, Aide to Rebeca Sosa, Co. Commissioner, District #6	A Co. Commissioner who is employed by the School Board may vote on a resolution approving the Joint Use Agreement between Miami-Dade Co. and the School Board concerning a lease by the Co. of property owned by the School Board because the School Board is a government agency, and she will not, directly or indirectly, profit or be enhanced by the vote.
15-110	(k) <i>plain meaning</i>	Carmen Bofill, Miami- Dade Co. Dept. of Elections	Co. and municipal employees engaged in outside employment are required to file an Outside Employment Statement with the County's Elections Department by noon, July 1st of each year.
15-111	(v) RQO 06-52 RQO 11-28	Manuel Sarria, Deputy Dir., MDC Homeless Trust, on behalf of Monica Vignes-Pitan, Selection Committee, Homeless Trust	A selection committee member may vote on an RFP where the member's employer has both represented and instituted legal action against one of the respondents to the RFP because the member will not personally benefit from the vote and she has no prohibited business relationship with the respondent.
15-112	(a)(13)	Cecilia Brewer- McDuffie, Chief of Human Resources & Support Services, WASD	Consultants or contractors working with WASD may be required to abide by WASD's administrative "no gift" policy provided they are apprised of the policy and agree to be bound by it. Imposition and enforcement of the policy is not within the scope of the Ethics Code or the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-113	-- <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. 112.3143 & Art. VI, Sec.2 The Children's Trust of Miami- Dade County Bylaws	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant Co. Attorney, Children's Trust	The Children's Trust bylaws provide that its members will be subject to all Florida Statutes and Co. ordinances relating to conflict of interest. However, the member need not leave the room during a discussion, as required by Section 2-11.1(d) of the Miami-Dade Ethics Code, because the Trust is not a Co. board and its bylaws specifically permit a member to remain in the room.
15-114	(h),(j), (k)(2), (m)	Jose Garrido, Staff Member to Javier Souto, County Commissioner, Dist. #10	A Co. employee is not prohibited from serving as an unpaid volunteer for the Westchester Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), a nonprofit organization, because such service is not considered "outside employment." The employee is advised not to disclose any confidential information he may have acquired through his public position; not appear before any Co. board or agency on behalf of the Chamber; and avoid taking any position or being involved with any activity within the Chamber that would be inconsistent with his public duties.
15-115	(j),(k),(w) RQO 12-07 RQO 05-110	Eugene Shy, Assistant Co. Attorney, Jackson Health Systems	A Co. employee does not engage in conflicting outside employment by working as a consultant for a Co. vendor that manufactures medical equipment and products where the Co. employee has no involvement or authority over the contract in his public position. However, the outside employment would likely be prohibited if it would require him to travel on behalf of this employer, since the Co. Ethics Code prohibits a Co. employee from accepting travel- related expenses from a Co. vendor unless he obtains a waiver from the Board of Co. Commissioners.
15-116	(e)(2)(c)	Dolly MacIntyre, Secretary, Women's History Coalition of Miami-Dade Co.	The receipt by a public official or public employee of a gift card valued at \$50 to \$100 presented by a nonprofit organization in recognition for professional or civic achievement does not constitute a reportable gift under Section 2-11.1 (e)(2)(c) of the Co. Ethics Code.
15-117	Citizens' Bill of Rights, Section 6	Miriam Ramos, Deputy City Attorney, City of Coral Gables	Given that investigation or determination of a charge of extortion is a criminal matter, which is not within the jurisdiction of an elected municipal commission, the Citizens' Bill of Rights would not require the city commission to allow an individual to present allegations of extortion by a city employee before the commission. Such matters should be referred to a law enforcement agency.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-118	(e) JHS Procurement Guideline No.5: "No Gift" Policy	Myra Cottrill, Lobbyist	A lobbyist with Jackson Health Systems (JHS) may not provide a complimentary luncheon to JHS employees unless such a provision is included in its contract with JHS, otherwise, the luncheon is considered a gift which cannot be accepted by JHS employees under JHS guidelines.
15-119	<i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. 112.3143(3)	H.T. Smith, Attorney, The Children's Trust	A Children's Trust board member does not comply with disclosure requirements concerning a voting conflict by merely stating on the record that he or she has a conflict and will abstain. The member needs to describe the reason for the conflict, including identifying and relationship or other circumstances that create the conflict.
15-120	(q), (s) RQO 12-09	Craig Collier, former Assistant Co. Attorney/ President of LaGorce/Pine-tree Dr. Assoc.	The Co. Ethics Code two-year rule does not prohibit a retired Assistant Miami-Dade Co. Attorney from engaging in the unpaid representation of a neighborhood association because the ex-employee's activity is exempt from the lobbying requirements under Section 2-11.1(s) of the Co. Ethics Code.
15-121	<i>directed to</i> Sunshine Law at Fla. Stat. 286.011	Xavier Suarez, Co. Commissioner Dist. #7	The Sunshine Law does not cover oral or written communications by a Co. Commissioner involving matters that will not be considered by the Board of Co. Commissioners. The Commissioner may publish, via twitter, an article written by another Commissioner concerning a pending matter if the publication is filed with the clerk.
15-122	<i>directed to</i> Sunshine Law at Fla. Stat. 286.011	Xavier Suarez, Co. Commissioner Dist. #7	Attendance at a city council meeting by two Co. Commissioners is not a violation of the Sunshine Law as long as any discussion is limited to questions and answers about the issue under consideration, and does not include communications between the Commissioners involving matters that are likely to come before the Board of Co. Commissioners.
15-123	(j) RQO 09-16	Robert Warren, Real Estate Advisor, Miami- Dade Co. ISD and RER	A Co. Real Estate Advisor does not have a conflict of interest to serve on a City of Miami Beach evaluation committee for ATM's in city-owned facilities because he has no involvement with ATM's in his Co. position and has no financial, personal, or familial relationships with ATM bidders that would prevent him from exercising his independent judgment in connection with his duties on the city's evaluation committee.
15-124	(i), (e)(4) RQO 13-01	Lawanda Scott, Principal Planner, Miami-Dade County Public Housing & Community Dept.	A volunteer serving on a Community Advisory Committee is required to comply with Co. financial and gift disclosure requirements where the committee is formed by the County or a municipal government as an advisory committee and the committee itself is not limited to be in existence for less than one year.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-125	(q) RQO 11-24 RQO 12-09	Joseph Webb, Parks Planning Supervisor, Miami-Dade Co. Parks & Recreation Department	A former Co. employee may not lobby or attempt to influence any official decision in the Co. for two years following his separation from the Co. The prohibition includes advocating for decisions that may be made at the sole discretion of any Co. official or employee. However, the former Co. employee may provide services related to Co. projects on behalf of his new employer.
15-126	(k)(2) <i>plain meaning</i> INQ 05-30	Aylin Concepcion, Administrative Coordinator, Medical Examiner	Pursuant to Section 2-11.1(k)(2) of the Co. Ethics Code, the Outside Employment Statement form must be filed by July 1 st of each year with the Elections Dept. The disclosure form must include the amount of money received from the outside employment.
15-127	(k) <i>plain meaning</i> INQ 11-16	Carmen Bofill, Miami-Dade Co. Dept. of Elections	Elected officials are not required to file a Co. Outside Employment Statement for work performed outside of their Co. or municipal duties. However, they must file State financial disclosure forms as required by Chapter 112, Florida Statutes.
15-129	(s) RQO 06-65	James Benson, Staff Counsel, Verizon Wireless	Sales representatives seeking to influence a decision that would ultimately go to the Board of Co. Commissioners or a Co. board or committee are required to register as lobbyists and take the lobbyist ethics course.
15-130	-- <i>directed to Sunshine Law at Fla. Stat. 286.011</i>	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant Co. Attorney	A Co. Commissioner may communicate in a written memo with another Commissioner concerning an observation he or she made in the other Commissioner's district if the memo is sent to all Commissioners and filed with the clerk, but should explicitly state in the memo that no other board member should reply to it because a response would amount to a prohibited two-way communication with a board member.
15-131	(c)(2) RQO 00-13	Evelyn Campos, Director, Professional Compliance Division of Miami-Dade Aviation Dept.	A Co. employee may not contract with the Co. through his privately co-owned company as long as he is employed by the Co. department that will enforce, oversee, or administer the contract.
15-132	(s)(2)(d) RQO 04-07	Jennifer Zona, Compliance Associate, State & Federal Comm's, Inc./Lobbyist	The completion of the lobbyist ethics training course satisfies any ongoing requirement by the Co. for lobbyist ethics training in connection with any re-registration within two years from the initial training.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-133	(s)(1)(b) <i>directed to</i> City of Miami Code at Sec. 2-653	Keith Kulynych, Architect, Revuelta Architectural International P.A.	An architect appearing before a City of Miami quasi-judicial board is required to register as a lobbyist and take the lobbyist ethics training course unless his sole purpose for the appearance is to provide factual information requested by the board members, and not to influence a decision of the board.
15-134	(d) RQO 11-27 RQO 07-54	Rebeca Sosa, Co. Commissioner, District #9	A Co. Commissioner who is employed by the School Board may vote on Item No. 8H1, a resolution approving a cooperative agreement with the School Board to continue implementation of a program designed to provide work skills and employment training to young adults with disabilities, because the Commissioner's position with the School Board is not connected to the program, the Commissioner will not be affected in a manner distinct from the public generally by the vote, and she will not, directly or indirectly, profit or be enhanced by the vote.
15-135	(d) RQO 11-27 RQO 07-54	Rebeca Sosa, Co. Commissioner, District #9	A Co. Commissioner who is employed by the School Board may vote on Item No. 11A12, approving a Joint Use Agreement between Miami-Dade Co. and the Miami-Dade Co. School Board to allow the use of vacant land close to two public schools to be used for public park purposes because she will not be affected in a manner distinct from the public generally by the vote, and she will not, directly or indirectly, profit or be enhanced by the vote.
15-136	(s)(6)(a)	Robert Meyers, Attorney, Weiss Serota Helfman	A lobbyist's transportation expenditures are reportable under sec. 2-11.1 (s)(6)(a) of the Co. Ethics Code.
15-137	(e)(4) <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. 112.3148(4)	Matthew Haber, Assistant City Attorney, City of Miami	For municipal officials required to file Financial Disclosure under Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, gifts over \$100 must be reported in State Form 9.
15-138	(k) INQ 09-126	Carmen Bofill, Clerk 3, Miami-Dade Elections Dept.	A Co. employee may volunteer as a Co. Reserve Police Officer without it constituting outside employment under the Co. Ethics Code because it is an all-volunteer position in the Co. and no compensation is provided.
15-139	(s) RQO 14-01	Brian Andrews, Brian Andrews USA,LLC d/b/a The News Director	A media relations firm does not engage in lobbying when it is hired by a client that has pending matters with the Co., where it communicates directly to Co. Commissioners on events unrelated to pending Co. issues, and their staff without any intent to influence any action or decision by the board.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-140	(q)(2), (s) RQO 03-62 RQO 12-09	Miriam Ramos, Deputy City Attorney, City of Coral Gables	The Co. Ethics Code two-year rule does not prohibit a former Assistant Miami-Dade Co. Attorney from working as a contracted outside counsel for a municipality because the two-year rule prohibition on lobbying does not apply to Co. employees representing governmental entities.
15-141	(bb) <i>plain reading</i>	Heidi Siegel, Village Manager, Village of Biscayne Park	Section 2-11.1(bb) of the Co. Ethics Code requiring municipal <i>elected</i> officials to take an ethics course within 90 days after being sworn into office does not also apply to municipal <i>employees</i> unless that requirement is adopted by the municipality and the municipality enters into an interlocal agreement with the COE for provision of such courses.
15-142	(c)(2), (d) RQO 00-13	Odalys Bello, Bello & Bello Land Surveying Corp.	The domestic partner of a Co. employee may contract with the Co. through her privately owned land surveying company, but may not contract with the Miami-Dade Co. Water & Sewer Dept. that employs her domestic partner.
15-143	(i)(2) RQO 04-198	Beatriz Jimenez, Senior Advocate, Community Action Human Services Dept.	Section 2-11.1(i) of the Co. Ethics Code does not specify that Division Heads or Division Directors are subject to financial disclosure requirements. However, Co. Dept.'s may create internal policies requiring such individuals or others who are in positions comparable in authority & responsibility to that of Department or Assistant Dept. Directors, to file financial disclosure forms.
15-144	(d) RQO 06-64 RQO 10-20	Linda Miller, Town Attorney, on behalf of Daniel Dietch, Mayor, Town of Surfside	The Mayor of the Town of Surfside has a prohibited conflict of interest that precludes him from voting on a traffic plan of action specific to his residential street because it would have a direct impact on his property and he may directly or indirectly profit or be enhanced by the action.
15-145	(c)(2), (d) RQO 00-13	Matilde Luzarraga, Executive Assistant to Carlos Migoya, President & CEO of PHT/JHS	A Co. employee may contract with the Co. to provide catering services, but she may not contract with the Public Health Trust/Jackson Health Systems (PHT/JHS), which employs her and she may not lobby the Co. for the contract.
15-146	(s) RQO 06-04	Karen Estis, Compliance Counsel, DMS Disaster Planning & Recovery	A private, for-profit disaster recovery company that receives federal, state and local funds, and which seeks to do business with Jackson Health Systems (JHS) must register as a lobbyist and comport with all lobbyist requirements.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-147	(c)(2) RQO00-13	Luis Rodriguez, Moonstone Investigations	The husband of a Co. employee may contract with the Co. through his privately-owned security guard services company, but may not contract with the Miami-Dade Co. Auditor's Office that employs his wife.
15-148	(v), (p) RQO 06-52	Wayne Pathman, City of Miami Sea Level Rise Committee	The Code of Ethics does not prohibit the appointment of an Attorney to the City's Sea Level Rise Committee (SLRC), where the Attorney's law firm lobbies in the city. However, once appointed, the Attorney may not appear in front of the SLRC either directly or through an associate.
Addend. to 14-269	---	Fred Balsera, CEO, Balsera Communication	A prohibited conflict of interest would not exist for the Co. Mayor's son to represent a train and rail manufacturer, which is not a County Vendor, in front of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), a state board. The Co. Mayor does not sit as a member of the MPO and plays no role in its decision-making or advisory capacities and the project would involve a public/private partnership involving the City of Miami, not the Co.
Addend. to 14-278	(e)(2)(e) RQO 05-110 RQO 02-46	Hydi Webb, Acting Assistant Dir., Port Miami (Port), Business Development & Marketing	The Co. Ethics code, does not prohibit officials and employees of Port Miami from soliciting sponsorship packages from private entities in support the Port's hosting of the 2015 American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) Annual Conference (the Port of Miami is a member of AAPA) because the solicitation is being made by Co. personnel on behalf of the Co. in performance of their official duties for use solely by the Co. in conducting its official business. However, the Commission discourages personal, direct, targeted solicitations to Co. contractors, vendors and lobbyists.
15-149	(u) RQO 06-64	George Vallejo, Mayor, City of North Miami Beach	A city mayor is not prohibited from engaging in a private real estate transaction in that city, as long as the transaction is made at arm's length and is disclosed because the transaction has no connection to the city.
15-150	---	Kendrick Julmis, Core Security Systems	The husband of a School board employee may contract with the Co. without an ethics opinion from the Ethics Commission because the Co. Ethics code does not extend to School Board employees.
15-151	(e), (w) RQO 05-110	Gregory Govia, Computer Service Manager, WASD	The Co. Ethics Code prohibition on Co. employees accepting travel expenses from Co. vendors, does not apply to a Co. employee who won two round-trip tickets to Paris in a raffle because the donor of the tickets is not a Co. vendor. The tickets constitute a reportable gift because their value is greater than \$100.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-152	(q) RQO 12-09	Luis Rodriguez, Part owner, Moonstone Investigations LLC	Under the two-year rule, the Ethics Code would not prohibit a former employee from working for a Co. vendor or becoming a Co. vendor himself. However, the employee would be prohibited from lobbying (i.e., influencing any Co. decision-makers) for the contract either on behalf of an employer or himself for two years after his Co. employment.
15-153	(bb) <i>plain reading directed to</i> Fla. Stat. 112.3142(2)(b)	Thomas F. Pepe, City Attorney, City of South Miami	Section 2-11.1(bb) of the Co. Ethics Code requires Co. and municipal elected officials to take a two-hour ethics course within 90 days after being sworn into office. Completion of the course will satisfy two of the four-hour ethics training requirements under State law.
15-154	(q) RQO 12-09	Fred Endara, Former employee	Pursuant to the two-year rule, a former Co. employee may not, for two years following his Co. employment, lobby or attempt to influence any official decision in the Co., and he may not appear at Co. quasi-judicial proceedings on behalf of private clients. However, the former Co. employee may perform routine administrative functions in the Co.
15-155	<i>directed to</i> Sunshine Law	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant Co. Attorney	Under the Sunshine Law, a member originally appointed to serve on a board, but is being represented on the board by a designee, may not engage in communication with another board member regarding board business, where the original board member maintains contact with the designee about board business.
15-156	(s)(7) RQO 06-34 RQO 10-28	Michael Garcia, Balsera Communications	Traditional sales commissions are not considered contingency or success fees that are banned in the Co. lobbyist ordinance, and, consequently, salespersons may be compensated by commission without violating the Co. Ethics Code.
15-157	(j), (g)	Aleem Ghany, City Manager, City of North Miami	The City Clerk in North Miami would not have a prohibited conflict of interest in applying for, or being considered, as a finalist for the position of Deputy City Manager, provided he does not hold both offices simultaneously or use his official position as City Clerk to secure special advantages in obtaining the position of Deputy City Manager.
15-158	(bb)	Jay Flynn, Chief, Miami-Dade Transit Human Resources	A former City of Miami employee, who completed a City of Miami sponsored ethics course, is required as a current County employee, to complete the Co. ethics training course pursuant to Section 2-11.1(bb) of the Co. Ethics Code.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-159	(b)(13)	Eve Boutsis, Assistant City Attorney, City of Miami Beach	A City of Miami Beach contractor is not subject to the Co. Ethics Code unless he is employed under a contract that has been designated by the City to comply with specified provisions of the Co. Ethics Code pursuant to Section 2-11.1(b)(13).
15-160	(s)(3)(b), (s)(2)(d)	Andrea Jamel, DMS Recovery	Under the Co. Ethics Code, a principal who engages in lobbying on behalf of his own firm, must register as a lobbyist, take the ethics course and pay the ethics course training fee, but he is exempted from paying the registration fee.
15-161	(s)(3)(b), (s)(2)(d)	Kennedy Rosario, Manager, Moonstone LLC	Under the Co. Ethics Code, a principal who engages in lobbying on behalf of his own firm, must register as a lobbyist, take the ethics course and pay the ethics course training fee, but he is exempted from paying the registration fee.
15-162	(s)(2)(d) RQO 04-07	Tyler Kleinman, Nielsen Merksamer	Completing the lobbyist ethics course within 60 days of initial registration as a lobbyist satisfies any ongoing requirement by the Co. for lobbyist ethics training in connection with any re-registration within two years from the initial training.
15-163	(t)1.(a) RQO 10-13	Marie Clark-Vincent, Division Director, MIA David Murray, Assistant County Attorney	During the time the Cone of Silence is in effect, the Assistant Director of Miami-Dade Co. Aviation Department, who is also a member of the selection committee formed to recommend an award for the management of Hotel MIA, may not communicate with a potential service provider concerning an impasse in the recommendation process.
15-164	(c)(2), (j)	Dale Poster-Ellis, Division Director, ITD	A Co. employee working in the ITD department as a computer programmer should not be transferred to a position involving preparing reports for a financial audit that is conducted by an auditing firm that employs her spouse. The spouse is the Head Partner of the Miami office of this firm, and is responsible for overseeing the team that is conducting the audit. The transfer would likely create conflicting employment for this employee, placing her in a situation where her independence of judgment in the performance of her Co. duties could be compromised.
15-165	(k) COE Outside Employment Memo (2014)	Rafael Granado, City Clerk, City of Miami Beach	A city employee who registers with a national travel accommodation booking service company to provide lodging to travelers for a fee is engaging in outside employment and must file the required permission and disclosure form on a yearly basis.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-166	2-1069(e)(3)	Marcia Narine, Commissioner, Commission on Ethics & Public Trust	An Ethics Commissioner may not actively participate or contribute to any political campaign or political action committee.
15-167	(s)(3)(b), (s)(2)(d)	Helen Correa, Office Manager, Entic USA	Under the Co. Ethics Code, a principal who engages in lobbying for his own firm must register as a lobbyist, take the ethics course and pay the ethics course training fee, but he is exempted from paying the registration fee.
15-168	(c)(3) RQO-06-52 <i>directed to</i> Town of Surfside Code Section 2-233(5)	Linda Miller, Town Attorney, Town of Surfside	A Town board member is not prohibited from contracting with the Town, as long as the board on which he serves does not regulate the contract; he does not lobby the board; and he abstains from voting if a matter related to the contract were to appear before the board.
15-169	(i) RQO 13-01	Margarita Olano, Administrative Board Secretary, Homeless Trust	Proxy board members for the Homeless Trust must file financial disclosure forms for the years during which they were authorized to participate—even if they did not actually participate that year.
15-170	(e)(2)(f), (g) RQO 02-46 RQO 08-49	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant, County Attorney's Office	A Co. Commissioner is not prohibited from soliciting a donation for back-to-school items for distribution to deserving children because the donation serves a Co. purpose and neither the Commissioner nor his or her staff would benefit from the solicitation.
15-171	<i>directed to</i> Section 112.2135, Fla. Stat. County's Nepotism Policy	Penny Townsley, Supervisor of Elections, County Elections Department	The County's anti- nepotism policy follows state law, which allows family members to work together but does not allow one family member to appoint, employ, promote or advance another.
15-172	(j), (g) RQO 07-54	Natalia Milian, Director, Co. Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board	A Co. board member is not prohibited from serving as an unpaid member of a Miami-Dade Co. School Board task force. The board member's responsibilities to the School Board are not likely to impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties on behalf of the Co. board.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-173	(c)(3), (g), (h), (i), (v)	Sean McKeen, Town of Surfside Tourist Board	The General Manager of a Surfside hotel would not be prohibited from serving on the Town of Surfside's Tourist Advisory Board. However, he would be subject to several limitations. Co. Ethics Code Section 2-11.1(c)(3) would prohibit him from contracting with any agency or department of the Town of Surfside subject to the oversight of the Tourist Advisory Board. Section 2-11.1 (g) would prohibit him from using his official position to secure special privileges or benefits for himself or his employer. Section (h) would prohibit him from disclosing confidential information obtained through his official position for the benefit of himself or his employer. Section (v) would prohibit him from appearing before his board on behalf of his employer, or vote on matters involving his employer if he will be directly affected by the vote.
15-174	<i>directed to</i> County Code Section 12- 14.1	Todd Hannon, City Clerk, City of Miami	Campaign treasurers must file expenditure reports identifying the names of all paid campaign workers participating in any activity regarding absentee ballots, including the interaction personally, by telephone, in writing, by email or other electronic communication, with one or more voters in connection with any activity related to absentee ballot campaigning.
15-175	(e)(2)(g), (g) RQO 05-06 RQO 06-05 RQO 08-25	Ingrid Bethune,--- on behalf of Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor	A Deputy Mayor is not prohibited from using his official title on United Negro College Fund (UNCF) stationery to extend invitations to a fund-raising event sponsored by UNCF, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, because any donations will be utilized solely by that organization, and neither the Deputy Mayor nor his staff will receive any personal benefit as a result of the donations.
15-176	(c)(2), (d) RQO 00-13	Gerardo Gomez, President, South Florida Football Officials Assoc., Inc. (SFFOA)	A Co. employee may contract with the Co. to through his privately-owned company, to provide officials as independent contractors for County-sponsored football events, but he may not contract with the Finance Department which employs him and he may not lobby the County for the contract.
15-177	(d) RQO 07-54 RQO 11-27	Rebeca Sosa, Co. Commissioner, District #6	A Co. Commissioner who is employed by the School Board may vote on a measure to provide Co. assistance to George T. Baker Trade School for sidewalk and public safety improvements, because the Commissioner's position with the School Board, a government entity, is not connected to the school, the Commissioner will not be affected in a manner distinct from the public generally by the vote, and she will not, directly or indirectly profit or be enhanced by the vote.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-178	(g) RQO 05-06	Rebeca Sosa, Co. Commissioner, District #6	A Co. Commissioner does not exploit her official position when she uses official Co. stationery to provide a letter of recommendation to the Sergeant at Arms for the Board of Co. Commissioners because the Commissioner is not related to the individual and her knowledge of the individual is limited to their professional association in the course of her official position as a Co. Commissioner.
15-179	(s)(7) RQO 06-34	Chip Iglesias, Ballard Partners	Traditional sales commissions are not considered contingency or success fees banned by the Co. lobbyist ordinance, and consequently, sales representatives may be compensated with sales commissions without violating the Co. Ethics Code.
15-180	(w) RQO 99-59 RQO 05-110	Rebeca Sosa, Co. Commissioner, District #6	A Co. Commissioner is prohibited from accepting a complimentary cruise for her and her spouse from a cruise lines at the Port which is a Co. vendor, because Section 2-11.1(w) of the Co. Ethics Code prohibits acceptance of any travel expenses from a country contractor, vendor, or service provider, bidder or proposer, absent a waiver by majority vote of the Co. Commission.
15-181	(e), (g)	David M. Murray, Co. Aviation Department (MDAD)	The Co. Aviation Dept. may not utilize funds to purchase tickets to a Marlins game for its employees to promote Operation SAFE. Given that the purpose behind the program is to inform high school students about the aviation industry, purchasing tickets to a baseball game would not serve that purpose and would be an inappropriate use of public resources, in violation of the Co. Ethics Code's prohibition on exploitation of official position.
15-182	(w) RQO 99-59	David M. Murray, Co. Aviation Department (MDAD)	Pursuant to Section 2-11.1(w) of the Co. Ethics Code, an employee is prohibited from accepting travel expenses (which include lodging expenses) from a Co. vendor to speak at an out-of-state conference, unless the provision is waved by a majority vote of the Co. Commission.
15-183	(c)(2), (d)	Alice Bravo, Co. Transit Department, (MDT)	No conflict of interest exists where a Co. employee's spouse is employed by a private entity which serves as a subcontractor for a Co. vendor, and the Co. employee's spouse does not have an ownership interest in the private entity. However, the Co. Ethics Code prohibits the employee's spouse from being directly or indirectly involved on any projects that involve the Co. employee's department.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-184	(q), (h) RQO 12-09	Malory Roger, Acting Fiscal Administrator, Co. Head Start/Early Head Start (CAHSD)	Under the two-year rule, the Co. Ethics Code would not prohibit a former employee from working for a Co. vendor or becoming a Co. vendor herself. However, the employee would be prohibited from lobbying either on behalf of an employer or herself for two years after her Co. employment.
15-185	(s)(1)(b) RQO 12-177 <i>directed to</i> City of Miami Code at Sec. 6-253	Jason Hagopian, Architect, TSAO Design	Pursuant to Sec. 6-253 of the City of Miami Code, an architect hired to represent the Co. before the City of Miami on a zoning change application would fall under the “government employee” exemption of Miami’s lobbying ordinance and would not be required to register as a city lobbyist or attend lobbyist training.
15-186	--	Sergio Pereira, Miami-Dade County Lobbyist on behalf of Gilberto Neves, CEO, Odebrecht	The Ethics Commission’s jurisdiction does not extend to the Aesthetics Committee, formed to provide input on a State project by a State agency, or to the Adrienne Arsht Center, a private entity. An Arsht Center board member should seek guidance from the Florida Ethics Commission concerning a possible conflict of interest.
15-187	(s) RQO 06-63 RQO 06-65 RQO 10-28	Everett Wilson, Partner, Akerman LLP on behalf of JIPA	Pursuant to section 2-11.1(s) of the Ethics Code, the representative of a private network provider who appears before JHS/PHT, at JHS/PHT’s request, to provide information about his client’s services would not be considered a lobbyist. However, if the meeting goes beyond an informational meeting and the discussion would include an attempt to influence an action, decision or recommendation by JHS/PHT staff, registration as a lobbyist would be required.
15-188	-- <i>directed to</i> Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat. 286.011	Susan Dechovitz, Assistant State Attorney, State Attorney’s Office	Under the Sunshine Law, a designee of a board member, who occasionally serves in place of the appointed member, may not engage in communication with another board member regarding board business.
15-189	(g)	Morris Copeland, Director, County Juvenile Services Department (JSD)	A full-time employee of JSD is not prohibited from serving as a board member of the Miami-Dade Co. Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) where JSD has determined that the employee’s service on the board is appropriate and his ministerial duties with JSD would not place him in a position to affect the interests of MDEAT.
15-190	(s) RQO 10-09	Janine Pratt, Director, KPMG	Under the lobbyist ordinance of the Co. Ethics Code, a person designated by a corporation as a Principal, and who is responsible for lobbying on behalf of his or her organization, is required to register as a lobbyist and take the ethics course but is exempt from the registration fee.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-191	(e)(4) RQO 02-46	Ralph Ventura, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, City of Sweetwater	City employees are not prohibited from accepting complimentary food provided by a sub shop/restaurant located in the vicinity of the city, where the purpose of the gift is to market the restaurant and the restaurant is not a lobbyist, vendor or contractor in the city. However, the gift is reportable if it exceeds \$100.
15-192	(d), (j) RQO 10-18 Art.III §3, Public Health Trust ByLaws	Chris Kokoruda, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorneys' Office	A governing member of the Sylvester Cancer Comprehensive Center (SCCC) which is owned and operated by the University of Miami, which has a contract with the Public Health Trust (PHT), may not serve as a board member of the PHT because his relationship with SCCC will create an ongoing <i>per se</i> voting conflict for him whenever matters involving SCCC come before the PHT.
15-193	(j),(k)(2), (m)(1) RQO 07-02 RQO 12-10	Othello Jones, Benefits Coordinator, Co. Water & Sewer Department, (WASD)	A Co. employee with WASD should be denied permission to engage in outside employment as a "qualifier" for a private construction company seeking to do business with the Co. Working as a "qualifier" would likely impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties because this type of work conflicts with the working hours at his Co. employment. However he is not prohibited from working as a general contractor where he would not be involved with any Co. employee, and where the work would be performed outside of his Co. hours. However, his work cannot require him to interact with Co. staff on behalf of third party clients, even if these interactions are routine and ministerial in nature.
15-194	(s)(1)(b) RQO 06-64	Thomas F. Pepe, City Attorney, City of South Miami	Where nothing is pending before the municipality; no proposal has been formalized, written or submitted; and there has been no decision as to whether a decision will be made, a private property owner who meets with municipal officials at their request is not required to register as a lobbyist pursuant to Section 2-11.1(s) of the Co. Ethics Code because the meeting would be considered a "meet and greet" preliminary meeting.
15-195	(e)(2)(e) RQO 06-05	Shanika A. Graves, Assistant Co. Attorney, Co. Attorneys' Office	Co. employees may solicit and accept contributions from nonprofit and other community groups to a local conference sponsored by Albizu University to address issues of domestic violence because the conference serves a public purpose and no Co. employee will derive a personal benefit from the contributions.
15-196	(c)(3) RQO 06-52	Jessica Weiss Levinson, Town of Surfside Tourist Board	A Town vendor may not serve on the Town board which regulates her contract.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-197	(z) INQ 14-25	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant Co. Attorney, Co. Attorneys' Office	Section 2-11.1 (z) of the Co. Ethics Code prohibits the Mayor, a Co. Commissioner or a member of their staffs from participating in settlement negotiations over claims or lawsuits. At the time that this provision was adopted, the Mayor did not serve as a strong Mayor, but rather as the Chair of the Board of Co. Commissioners, and was therefore in the position of a Co. Commissioner vis-à-vis the Co. Manager who was the CEO and the person who would, by virtue of the position, participate in such negotiations. Given that the Mayor is now a strong Mayor and has the same executive status as that the Co. Manager formerly had, and is no longer a member of the Board of Co. Commissioners, this section could no longer be read as applying to the Co. Mayor. Therefore, the Co. Mayor and his staff are not prohibited by the Ethics Code from engaging in settlement discussions of claims.
15-198	2-1074(y), County Code Section 2.3, Ethics Commission Rules of Procedure	Keisha McGuire, Associate, Hughes, Hubbard & Reed LLP	Sections 2-1074(y) of the Miami- Dade Co. Code and 2.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Ethics Commission, limit the issuance of advisory opinions to the prospective conduct of a person who will be affected by the interpretation and who is under the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission. Consequently, the Ethics Commission may not provide an opinion regarding a matter between Balsera Communications and their employee Carlos J. Gimenez where that lobbying firm is no longer representing Alstom Transportation, the requester of the opinion. Alstom is not a person or entity that would be affected by such interpretation. Additionally, this is not a prospective matter but a retrospective matter, inasmuch as whatever involvement Mr. Gimenez or Balsera Communications have had has occurred in the past and there is no expectation that such involvement will occur in the future.
15-199	(w), (b)(13) RQO 99-59 RQO 05-110 RQO 06-46 INQ 13-130 UM-PHT Annual Operating Agreement	Chris Korkuda, Assistant Co. Attorney, Co. Attorneys' Office	A JHS employee may not accept travel-related expenses (lodging) from a Co. vendor to attend training out of state, unless he obtains a waiver from the Public Health Trust (PHT). Note: Section 2-11.1(w) of the Co. Ethics Code does not apply to contractor-physicians contracting with the PHT unless they have they been designated as "contract staff" covered by certain provisions of the Co. Ethics Code.
15-200	(w) RQO 99-59 RQO 05-110	Chris Kokoruda, Assistant Co. Attorney, Co. Attorney's Office	Pursuant to the Co. Ethics Code at Sec. 2-11.1(w), a JHS employee may not accept travel-related expenses (registration fees) from a Co. contractor to attend an out-of-town conference, unless the provision is waived by the Public Health Trust.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-201	(d), (u) RQO 06-64	Haydee Sera, Attorney, Gastesi and Associates, P.A., City Attorney for the Town of Miami Lakes	The Vice Mayor of the Town of Miami Lakes may vote on a matter concerning payment to the Town's law firm for litigation costs involving the Mayor, where the Vice Mayor is part owner of a day care center represented by the law firm but would not, directly or indirectly, profit or be enhanced by the vote, and the business relationship between the center and the firm is an arm's length business transaction that contains no special discounts, terms, or benefits obtained because of the elected official's position. Nevertheless, the Vice Mayor should consider abstaining from the matter in view of a possible appearance problem and his prior abstention from such matters.
15-202	(q), (h) RQO 12-09	Deborah Swain, Vice-President, Milian, Swain & Associates. Inc.	Under the two-year rule, a former Co. employee, currently working for a consulting engineering firm that provides engineering and management services to the Co. and municipalities, is not prohibited from working or lobbying <i>another</i> governmental entity such as the City of Hialeah. However, with respect to projects involving the Co. the employee is prohibited from lobbying the Co. for a two-year period following his separation from the Co. Additionally, pursuant to Section 2-11.1(h), the former Co. employee may not disclose confidential information acquired as a result of his Co. employment, and may not use such information directly or indirectly for his personal benefit.
15-203	(j), (p) RQO 12-09 RQO 05-27	Pete J. Betancourt, Senior Procurement Contract Officer, County Aviation Dept. (MDAD)	Where Co. bid documents require firms to provide references as part of their application, bidders are not prohibited from requesting professional references from Co. employees as long as this does not impair the employees' independence of judgment in the performance of their public duties.
15-204	(q)	Pete J. Betancourt, Senior Procurement Contract Officer, Co. Aviation Dept. (MDAD)	A former Co. employee is not lobbying when he provides a professional reference for a vendor appearing before a Co. evaluation/selection committee.
15-205	(j)	Pete J. Betancourt, Senior Procurement Contract Officer, Co. Aviation Dept. (MDAD)	A member of an evaluation/selection committee who is employed by a private entity providing a reference to a vendor appearing before the committee is prohibited from serving on the selection committee because it is likely that his independence of judgment would be impaired in a situation where he is evaluating proposals in a public selection process, while being under the oversight of his private employer, which is competing in the process.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-206	(v) RQO 05-43	Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor, Office of the Commission Auditor (OCA)	No prohibited conflict of interest exists for a selection committee member to vote on a matter where her spouse had a prior employment relationship with one of the proposers. The board member will not be directly affected by the vote, and she has no relationship with the proposer that would create an automatic prohibited conflict.
15-207	(n)	Alex Ferro, Chief of Staff, Office of Co. Mayor	The Mayor's Chief of Staff does not have a prohibited conflict of interest where his spouse is a salaried employee of a non-profit hospital that works with the Department of Community Information & Outreach (CIAO) not under the Chief of Staff's direct oversight. Nevertheless, he should be insulated from any action, direct or indirect, including supervisory oversight concerning any such decisions concerning the non-profit entity.
15-208	(d) <i>directed to Fla. Stat. 112.3143(3)</i>	Ronetta Taylor, City Clerk, City of Miami Gardens	The Co. Ethics Code does not require a Miami Gardens Council member, who is Chairman of the Board for one of the organizations receiving CDBG funds, to recuse himself from voting on the entire public hearing process for all of the items receiving CDBG dollars. However, the Council member is required to recuse himself from any discussion or vote concerning the allocation to his organization.
15-209	(s)	Brian Andrews, Managing Partner, Brian Andrews USA, LLC d/b/a The News Director	A media relations firm does not engage in lobbying when it advertises a training class to Co. employees unrelated to pending Co. issues.
15-210	(s)(2)(d) RQO 04-07	Chad Friedman, Weiss Serota Helfman	The Ethics Commission has previously opined that, Section 2-11.1(s)(2)(d), permits lobbyists whose registration has lapsed for a period of less than two years and who took the original ethics course following their initial registration, to take the refresher course within 60 days of re-registering. However, if the lapse in lobbyist registration is longer than two years, then the lobbyist would have to re-take the initial four-hour lobbyist course within 60 days of re-registering.
15-211	(s) RQO 10-28	Carolyn Perkins, Executive Secretary, County Public Works & Management Dept. (PWWM)	A sales manager making a presentation to Co. personnel in an attempt to influence an official purchasing decision is required to register as a lobbyist.
15-212	(q) RQO 12-09	Odalys Bello, Bello & Bello Land Surveying Corp.	Under the two-year rule, the Ethics Code would not prohibit a former employee from contracting with the Co. through her privately-owned company. However, the employee would be prohibited from lobbying (i.e., influencing any Co. decision-makers) for the contract for two years following her separation from the co.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-213	Jennings Rule	Alex Diaz, member, Community Council #11	As per the ruling in <i>Jennings v. Dade County</i> , 589 So. 2d 1337 (Fla. 3d DCA 1991), <i>review denied</i> , 598 So. Ed 75 (Fla. 1992), public board members sitting in quasi-judicial proceedings are prohibited from engaging in private discussions regarding a pending issue outside of the public hearing on the matter. Violations of the rule could create a presumption of prejudice and decisions made in the wake of the violation could be overturned,
15-214	(e) §112.3148(4) , Florida Statutes	Valerie Lauren Trueba, ESQ, Legislative Aide, on behalf of Commissioner Xavier L. Suarez, District #7	So long as there are no other purposes for the gift, or the gift does not relate to any pending issue in the Co., Co. employees as defined in §2-11.1(b)(1)-(6) may accept said gift from an entity. If the value of the gift exceeds \$100, he or she must report the gift on the State's quarterly disclosure form. However, §112.3148(4), Florida Statutes, prohibits a reporting individual such as a Co. Commissioner or procurement employee, from "knowingly accepting, directly or indirectly, a gift from a vendor doing business with the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, a political committee as defined in §106.011, or a lobbyist who lobbies the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency...."
15-215	(g)	Isaac Smith	A Commissioner does not exploit her official position when she uses official Co.stationery to provide a letter of recommendation to an individual known to the Commissioner through her Co. employment.
15-216	(j) RQO 09-16	Cassandra Henderson, Zoning Development Analyst, M-D Cty. Dept. of Regulatory & Economics Resources (DRER)	A Co. Zoning Development Analyst for DRER does not have a prohibited conflict of interest in serving as a real estate broker in Broward Co. because her activities in Broward Co. are unlikely to impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties on behalf of Miami-Dade Co.
15-217	(s)(1)(b) <i>MRO Software v. Miami-Dade County</i> , 895 So.2d 1086 (2004)	Keith Knowles, Senior Co. Commission Clerk, Miami-Dade Co. Clerk of the Board	An attorney representing a bidder in a bid protest proceeding is required to register as a lobbyist.

**INQ Summary
2015
First, Second, and Third Quarter**

15-218	(s)(4) RQO 04-07	Samantha Padgett, General Counsel, Florida Retail Association	A person who lobbies the Co. on behalf of a nonprofit trade organization must register to lobby but is not required to pay the lobbyist registration fee. Notwithstanding this exemption, the person must take the lobbyist ethics training course within 60 days of registering and pay the \$100 fee for the course.
15-219	(s) RQO 06-65	Linda Sykes, Salesperson, Office Depot	Sales representatives seeking to influence a decision that would ultimately go to the City of Homestead City Council or a city board or committee are required to register as lobbyists and take the lobbyist ethics course.
15-220	(q), (s)(1)(b) RQO 11-26	Darcee Siegel, former City Attorney, City of North Miami Beach	A former City of North Miami attorney may represent a City official at publicly noticed quasi-judicial proceedings such as those conducted before the Miami-Dade Co. Ethics Commission and is exempt from the lobbying registration requirements under Sec. 2-11.1(s) of the Co. Ethics Code.
15-221	(s)(2)(d) RQO 04-07	Mireya Carballosa, Florida Partners, LLC	The Ethics Commission has previously opined that, Section 2-11.1(s)(2)(d), permits lobbyists whose registration has lapsed for a period of less than two years and who took the original ethics course following their initial registration, to take the refresher course within 60 days of re-registering. However, if the lapse in lobbyist registration is longer than two years, then the lobbyist would have to re-take the initial four-hour lobbyist course within 60 days of re-registering.
15-222	(e) <i>directed to Fla. Stat. 112.3148</i>	Cire Andino, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator, Miami-Dade Co. Parks	Pursuant to Sec. 2-11.1(e) of the Co. Ethics Code, Co. officials and staff may accept complimentary tickets valued at \$500 per ticket, which are provided by a charitable organization, provided they are reported as gifts. However, under State law, Co. officials may accept complimentary tickets given by the charitable organization provided the ticket does not exceed \$100. If the ticket is valued at \$500, then the portion of the cost which represents a charitable contribution is not included in valuing the gift but the remaining portion must not exceed \$100.
15-223	(s)(1)(b), (s)(5) RQO 08-22	Miguel De Grandy, Holland & Knight	Members of a proposer team making a presentation to the Co. need not register as lobbyists if they do not otherwise lobby, but they must be listed on an affidavit filed with the Clerk of the Board.
15-224	(s)(5) RQO 08-22	Emily Escrader, Office Manager, Air Products, Inc.	Members of a technical team making a presentation to the Co. need not register as lobbyists if they do not otherwise lobby, but they must be listed on an affidavit filed with the Clerk of the Board.