
INQ 15-273 Jordan

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2015 5:28 PM
To: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE); Perez, Martha D. (COE)
Subject: INQ 15-273 Barbara Jordan, Miami-Dade County Commissioner (Participation in Settlement Negotiations)

Assistant County Attorney Abbie Schwaderer Raurell inquired on behalf of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Jordan concerning whether it would be in violation of Section 2-11.1(z) for the Commissioner to attend a meeting with the Mayor and other officials of the City of Miami Gardens to discuss several issues, one of which may be related to the settlement of ongoing litigation between the County and the City of Miami Gardens, if the Commissioner were to only listen to that portion of the meeting related to the settlement, without participating in the meeting. Section 2-11.1(z) prohibits County Commissioner from participating in settlement negotiations of claims or lawsuits without prior approval of the County Commission. Commissioner Jordan had received permission for a previous meeting with the City, but had not received permission for this meeting which was time sensitive and could not be brought to the Commission.

I advised that it would be preferable for the Commissioner to indicate in advance to the City officials that she would not attend any meeting that would include negotiations or issues related to negotiations without prior Commission approval and that any meeting she would attend would have to related only to issues other than such negotiations or proposed settlements. Even presence during such a discussion could create an appearance of her participation in an improper negotiation in violation of Section 2-11.1(z).

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