

INQ Summary 2017

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-01	(j), (k), (m)(2), (v)	Jonathan Fried, Executive Director, We Count!	A member of the Living Wage Commission (LWC), a County board, may serve on the board at the same time that his employer, We Count!, a non-profit agency, is applying for a grant from the Office of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Cava Levine because there appears to be no interaction between We Count! and the LWC; and no likelihood that the board member's independent judgment would be impaired. (JC)
17-02	(s)	Beth Goldsmith, Procurement Contracting Manager, Miami-Dade County Internal Services Division (ISD)	Members of a vendor's technical team attending an on-site County visit arranged by a County negotiation committee, for the sole purpose of providing the team with information on the County's technological operational system, 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. (MP)
17-03	(d)	Daniel Dietch, Mayor, Town of Surfside	The Mayor of the Town of Surfside, who is employed by CH2MHill, a company with significant contracts in the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Program (BBCWP), a joint project between the Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District, may not vote on an upcoming resolution by the Town Commission urging legislative support for expansion of BBCWP because his ownership interest in the company, together with the fact that he receives stock options from the company's performance, would create a reasonable possibility that he would benefit from the continuance and expansion of the program, such that he might, directly or indirectly profit or be enhanced by the action taken by the Town's Commission. (JC)
17-04	(j), (k), (h), (g)	Nicole Banks, Personnel Technician, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest involving her employment at the County and her work as a concessions supervisor for Levy Restaurants, a County vendor, because her outside employment is completely unconnected to County duties; would not impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties; and would not conflict with her County employment hours. (RT)
17-05	(i)	Maria Camara, Village Clerk, Village of Biscayne Park	Candidates for public office are required to file Form 1 together with their qualifying papers, and must file by July 1 following each calendar year in which they hold their position. Departing public officials, such as an outgoing City Commissioner, must file Form 1F within 60 days after leaving public office. (GDG)

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17-06	(c)(3), (m)(2), (v)	Enid W. Demps, Councilwoman, Community Council #15	A Community Councilmember does not have a prohibited conflict of interest when her employer, The Greater Goulds Optimist Club, applies for grant funding from the Miami-Dade Office of Management and Budget, because the Community Council on which she serves has no involvement in any aspect of the grant funding and she would not be directly affected by it. (RT)
17-07	<i>directed to</i> Miami-Dade County Code Sec. 1.05	James Hepburn, Utility Supply Specialist 2, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD)	County employee who qualifies as a candidate for election and is elected to the City Commission in the City of Miramar, immediately forfeits his County position pursuant to Section 1.05 of the Miami Dade County Code. (JC)
17-08	(v)	Neil R. Singh, Acting Commission Auditor, Miami Dade County	Two prospective members of a selection committee may serve on the committee even though their former employer and/or the former employer of their spouse, has responded to the RTA, because the prospective members have no current employment/financial relationship with the firms; the employments in question were terminated amicably and they do not maintain close friendships with persons at those firms; and it is unlikely that they could not be fair and objective in evaluating the firms. (JC)
17-09	(b)(b)	Christopher Agrippa, Director, County Clerk of the Board	All newly hired County employees must complete the revised two-hour COE Employee Ethics Course within 60 days after they are hired by the County. (GDG)
17-10	(d) <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. Sec. 286.012	Manny Cid, Mayor, Town of Miami Lakes	The Mayor of the Town of Miami Lakes may vote on an upcoming item before the Town Council, where the spouse of his business partner is registered as a lobbyist on behalf of the entity that is coming before the Council, because he would not be directly affected by the vote and does not have any of the enumerated relationships with the entity appearing before the Council. However, because it is a quasi-judicial proceeding, he may abstain from voting under § 286.012, Fla. Stat., if he believes it necessary to ensure a fair proceeding free from potential bias or prejudice. (JC)
17-11	(j), (k) RQO 16-02	Ashiel Callwood, Console Security Specialist, Miami-Dade Internal Services Department (ISD)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an ISD employee does not have a conflict of interest involving his employment at the County and his work as a security officer for Security Alliance, LLC, a County vendor, because his outside employment would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties and it will not conflict with his County employment hours. (RT)

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17-12	<i>directed to</i> Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat § 286.011	Joseph Geller, Esq., Village Attorney, Village of El Portal	Under the Sunshine Law, the Village Council may not decide in a closed session to redesign the Village Seal for the purpose of providing a surprise event for the Village, because the item involves action by the Village Council on a matter of official business. (JC)
17-13	(b)(b) <i>directed to</i> MDC Code of Ordinances Sec. 2-71	Christopher Agrippa, Director, County Clerk of the Board	The Miami-Dade Property Appraiser is required to complete the two-hour COE Employee Ethics Course because the position is made subject to the County Code of Ethics to the same extent as County Department heads per Sec. 2-71. (JC)
17-14	(j), (k) RQO 16-02 RQO 15-03	Yasenny Camejo, Marketing Coordinator, Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS)	A County employee for PROS may pursue outside employment with her own marketing consulting firm, Yasenny LLC, because it will not transact business with the County or any County vendor, and will not involve any use of County time or resources. (MP)
17-15	(e)(3)	Arletha Hire Miller, Personnel Specialist, Miami-Dade Information Technology Division (ITD)	Loyalty CORE products given at no cost to the County IT Department by a County vendor, OpenText, do not violate the Ethics Code because the products will be used solely by the County in furtherance of official County business. (MP)
17-16	(w)	Maurice Pierre, Biologist 2, MDC Dept. of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER)	A County employee who winning a free cruise from a County vendor through a raffle may not accept the cruise, because County employees are prohibited from accepting travel expenses from County contractors. (JC)
17-17	(w)	Ken Pyatt, Deputy Director, Miami-Dade County Aviation Department	The Deputy Director of the Aviation Department is prohibited from accepting lodging expenses in Costa Rica, associated with attending the upcoming wedding of the son of a principal for developer, Driftwood Hotels, which was offered as a courtesy to all guests attending the wedding, absent a waiver by majority vote of the County Commission, because it is anticipated that Driftwood Hotels will bid on the hotel management contract at Miami International Airport. (JC)
17-18	(d)	Rebeca Sosa, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District #6	A County Commissioner employed by the School Board may vote on an extension of Joint Use Agreement between the School Board of Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County, for joint use of School property for recreational purposes, because her employment is with a government entity and she will not profit or be enhanced by the vote. (JC)

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17-19	(s)(2)(d)	Jill Jacobs, Eleanor Joseph and Associates	Completing the lobbyist ethics course within 60 days of initial registration as a lobbyist satisfies any ongoing requirement by the County for lobbyist ethics training. (GDG)
17-20	(c), (m)(1)	Geraldine Lazarre, TriMerge Consulting Group, PA (TriMerge)	A board member on the Jackson Health System's General Obligation Bond Citizens' Advisory Committee may accept a Mom & Pop grant for her privately-owned company, TriMerge, as long as her committee is not involved in any way in processing or administering the grant and the board member does not lobby for the grant. (GDG)
17-21	(s)(3)(a)	Frank Schnidman, Consultant for a Government Entity	A consultant hired by a local municipality to represent its interest before the BCC is exempt from registering as a lobbyist because he is appearing in an official capacity on behalf of a public officer. (MP)
17-22	(s) RQO 04-33	Thomas Pepe, City Attorney, City of South Miami	Any communication regarding matters other than process or procedure between the bidder or proposer and City elected officials or personnel regarding a foreseeable or current bid or solicitation, with the intent to influence the decision regarding that bid or solicitation, constitutes lobbying and would require registration. (GDG)
17-23		Norris Kimble, Courtroom Clerk I, North-Dade Justice Center	The County Ethics Code does not provide a specific definition of the word "intent", however, the COE can impose enhanced penalties if they determine that an individual intentionally violated a section of the Ethics Code. (RT)
17-24	(k)(2)	Emilio Gonzalez, Director, Miami International Airport	The Director of Miami International Airport would not be prohibited from serving on a federal board, as his board service will not conflict with his duties at the airport. Further, his board service would not be considered reportable outside employment as it is an unpaid position and does not involve service that would ordinarily be compensated. (JC)
17-25	(e)(4), (k)(4)	Eddie Kirtley, Assistant County Attorney, Miami-Dade County	An incentive program, in which complimentary admission to the General Bench & Bar Conference, is offered by the Dade County Bar Association to individuals whose memberships have lapsed, as an incentive to renew their membership, is not a reportable gift under Section 2-11.1(e). The incentive indicates a sales/marketing strategy available to a group, rather than an intent to bestow a gift on any individual and may be considered as adequate consideration for the agreement to renew. (JC)

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17-26	(s)(3)(b) <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. 112.3135	Mary Kramer, Esq.	The spouse of a current North Bay Village Commissioner is not prohibited from speaking at a Village Commission meeting without registering as a lobbyist, if she is speaking on behalf of herself, and avoids making any reference during the remarks to her spouse. The spouse of a Village Commissioner may not be appointed to the North Bay Village Citizens Budget and Oversight Board if such appointment will be made by the Village Commission. (RT)
17-27	(s)(3)(b) <i>directed to</i> City of Miami Code Sec. 2-653	Carly Starkey, J.D. Candidate, University of Miami Law School	Students appearing before the City of Miami Commission to speak on behalf of legislation are not required to register as lobbyists because they are appearing in their individual capacity for the purpose of self-representation, and without compensation or reimbursement from another person or entity. (JC)
17-28	(d), (n), (l), (g)	Jud Kurlancheek, Building, Zoning, Planning and Public Works Director, Village of Key Biscayne	While the Village of Key Biscayne's Director of Building, Zoning, Planning and Public Works' ownership of an apartment in a building adjacent to a proposed development may not create a violation of the Ethics Code, he is advised to consider voluntarily recusing himself from the process and delegating his duties to another Village administrator so that he is not placed in a position where his involvement may create an appearance of impropriety. (JC)
17-29	(bb)	Sue Loyzelle, Vice Mayor, Town of Cutler Bay	The requirement that an elected official complete ethics training within 90 days of her election is extended for the Vice Mayor of the Town of Cutler Bay, due to her physical inability to attend the training during her recuperation from surgery. (JC)
17-30	(s), (h) RQO 06-54	Robert Fernandez, Esq., Zumpano Castro LLC	A former County employee within the two-year period after leaving County public service, may lobby County employees on behalf of a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity. Further, the individual need not register as a lobbyist if only serving as an unpaid representative of the non-profit entity and only seeking grant funding. (MP)
17-31	(i)	Sandra Williams, HR Manager, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens	The former Finance Director of Vizcaya Museum and Gardens must file State Form 1F with the Department of Elections in the County in which he resides within 60 days after leaving his County employment because he had final purchasing authority of \$20,000 or more. (GDG)
17-32	(j), (k), (g), (h)	John Prats, HR Commander, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest due to his work as a choir director for Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, a County vendor, because his outside employment is completely unconnected to County duties; would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties; and would not conflict with his County employment hours. (RT)

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17-33	(g), (j), (c)(2), (d), (m)(1)	Rhaudal Cooper, Jr., Lieutenant, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR)	A Lieutenant with MDFR may contract with the County through his privately-owned company, but he may not contract with MDFR, the department that employs him, and he may not lobby the County for the contract. (GDG)
17-34	(g)	Matthew Pigatt, Commissioner, City of Opa-locka	The County Ethics Code does not prohibit a Commissioner from using his official position to solicit donations for the non-profit entity, 100 Black Men of South Florida, because the organization is a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and neither the Commissioner nor his or her staff will receive a personal benefit as a result of the solicitation. Further, the Commissioner may not use his City title to solicit donations for his employer, Florida Memorial University. (JC)
17-35	(e)	Margarita Olano, Board Support Specialist, Homeless Trust	The income that a County employee receives as a result of tax preparation services that he provides to other County employees is not considered a gift to him under the County Ethics Code as the monies were paid as lawful consideration for preparing the taxes of co-workers. Further, a County employee that owns such a business must obtain permission to engage in outside employment on an annual basis and file an annual Outside Employment Statement with the County's Elections Department. (RT)
17-36	(e)	Jordani Pluvoise, Real Estate Evaluator 2, Miami-Dade Property Appraiser's Office (MDPAO)	While internal gift exchanges between co-workers and/or bosses are exempt from the MDPAO administrative "no-gift policy", any gift or series of gifts received from a non-relative or non-household member that exceeds the fair market value of \$100, must be disclosed pursuant to the County Ethics Ordinance. (RT)
17-37	(c)(2)	Jacinto Rodriguez, President, Project Service International Corporation, Inc.	An individual who is not a Miami-Dade County elected official, board member, employee, or an immediate family member of the aforementioned categories of County personnel, is not required to obtain an ethics opinion from the Ethics Commission in order to qualify to transact business with the County. (GDG)
17-38	(e)	Juan Villalba, Detective, Narcotics Bureau, Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD)	Donation of collection boxes by a County vendor for use in a MDPD prescription drugs take-back program does not violate the Ethics Code because the boxes will be used solely by the County in furtherance of official County business; no financial or other benefit will be provided to the vendor; and the donation will not, in anyway personally benefit a County employee. (JC)

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17-39	(s)(4), (s)(1)(b) <i>directed to</i> Cutler Bay Code 2-236	Stephen Zarzecki, President, Concerned Citizens of Cutler Bay	The President, attorney, and consulting engineer, for the Concerned Citizens of Cutler Bay (CCC), a non-profit Florida corporation, may appear on behalf of the organization before the Town Council of the Town of Cutler Bay because Section 2-236 of the Cutler Bay Code does not require registration for any unpaid representative (the President) of organizations who engage in lobbying activity; the County Ethics Code excludes from the definition of lobbyist attorneys retained solely for the purpose of representing individuals during quasi-judicial proceedings; and also provides an exception for expert witnesses who provide only scientific, technical, or other specialized information or testimony in public meetings. (JC)
17-40		Joel Garcia, Transhire Transitional Hiring Solutions (Transhire)	An employee of Transhire, assigned to the elections department, is not required to obtain an ethics opinion from the Ethics Commission as part of qualifying for eligibility to do business with Miami-Dade County, because the temporary service contract between the County and Transhire does not state that temporary employees of that company assigned to County departments are covered by the Ethics Code. (GDG)
17-41	(b)(9), (c)(2), (d), (g)	Deborah Margol, Deputy Director, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs	The domestic partner of the Curator & Artists Services Manager of the County's Department of Cultural Affairs, may not enter into the Visual Arts Program award agreement for the receipt of County funds because her partner, the County employee, works for the County department that oversees and administers the agreement. (MP)
17-42	(d)	Rebeca Sosa, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District #6	A County Commissioner employed by the Miami-Dade School Board may vote on a resolution between the School Board and the County, establishing a scholarship program for students at George T. Baker Aviation Technical College, because her employment is with a government entity and she will not profit or be enhanced by the vote. (MM)
17-43	(bb) <i>directed to</i> Miami-Dade Resolution 189-05 MDEAT by- laws Sec. 4.15.6	Traci Pollock, Special Projects Administrator II, Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT)	MDEAT board members are required to complete an ethics training course developed by the Ethics Commission pursuant to Miami-Dade Resolution 189-05. (GDG)
17-44	(c), (d), (m)(1)	Joyce J. Green, Customer Service Transit Agent, MDC Communications Department (COM)	A County employee who works for the Communications Dept. (COM) may contract with the County through her privately-owned company, but she may not contract with COM, the department that employs her, and she may not lobby the County for the contract. (GDG)

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17-45	(bb)	Elizabeth Regalado, Executive Director, Miami-Dade Domestic Violence Oversight Board	A retired County employee who was rehired by the County and completed the employee online ethics training course within two years of her re-hire date is not required to retake the ethics course because the Ethics Code only requires employees to complete a refresher Ethics course every two years. (GDG)
17-46	(i)	Julie Balogh, Manager, Airports & Contracts Section, DERM	It is recommended that a draft agreement for Non-Exclusive Professional Services Agreement (PSA), include County Ordinance 2-11.1(i), the financial disclosure section of the County Ethics Code. (GDG)
17-47	(s)	Brandon Cornejo, Design Staff, Raymond Jungles, Inc.	Under the County lobbyist ordinance, a person designated by a corporation as a Principal, 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. (MP)
17-48	(j), (k) AO 7-1 RQO 00-10	Michelle Aleman, Grants Analyst, Office of Management and Budget	Although opinions regarding possible conflicts of interest in outside employment and outside employment guidelines presented by the Ethics Commission staff may serve as a reference, a County supervisor has discretion to deny permission to a County employee to engage in outside employment. (RT)
17-49	(g)	Brian Olson, RER/DERM GIS Support, Miami-Dade County Information Technology Department	A County employee may engage in political activities outside the workplace, but he may not attempt to coerce coworkers about his political positions while on the job and he may not use County time or resources to further his political activities. (RT)
17-50	(j), (k), (h)	Natasha Reese, Sergeant, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest involving her work as a correctional consultant with the American Correctional Association (ACA), because she does not have the authority to approve or disapprove any agreements between MDCR and the ACA; she has no involvement in the oversight, administration, or auditing by the County or the ACA regarding the County's compliance with the ACA; and her outside employment would not impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties or conflict with her County employment hours. (RT)

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17-51	(e) <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. 112.3148	Gerald Sanchez, Assistant County Attorney, Miami- Dade County	The Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) may accept lunch and the use of Crush Ballroom at the Brickell City Center for the purpose of conducting the 40 th Anniversary Governing Board meeting of the MPO, from Swyer Properties, Inc, a County contractor, because it was not solicited by the MPO or its staff; it is being provided to the MPO in connection with the MPO's official business, rather than for the personal benefit of any staff member; and the value of the lunch is less than \$100. (JC)
17-52	(j)	Rosy Pastrana, Executive Assistant to the Miami-Dade County Elections Supervisor; Miami-Dade Elections Department	The Executive Assistant to the Miami-Dade County Elections Supervisor may accept appointment to the Miami-Dade County Transportation Advisory Board because her position with the Elections Department has no connection with transportation issues in the County; she does not usually interact with County personnel who handle such issues; and it is unlikely that her Board position will impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her duties in the Elections Department. (JC)
17-53	(c), (d), (m)(1)	Elizabeth Siboria, Eligibility Interviewer, MDC Comm. Action and Human Service Dept. (CAHSD)	An Eligibility Interviewer for CAHSD may contract with the County through her privately-owned company, but she may not contract with CAHSD, the department that employs her, and she may not lobby the County for the contract. (GDG)
17-54	(j), (k), (g), (h)	Shawntia Kirkland, Personnel Specialist 2, MDC Corrections Dept. (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest due to her work as an owner/coordinator for TK Creations Printing and Party Planning, because her outside employment is completely unrelated to her County duties and would not impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties. (RT)
17-55	(c)(3), (g), (h), (m)(2), (v)	Dave Capelli, Founder/CEO, TECH Miami Inc.	The CEO of Tech Miami Inc., a County vendor, may serve as a board member on the Miami-Dade Millennial Task Force (MTF) because it does not appear that the MTF will have the ability to award or oversee any contract that Tech Miami has with the County. The board member may not make presentations or seek any benefit for himself or others from his board and he may not vote on any matter involving his company. (RT)

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17-56	(p), (g), (c)(3)	Marianne Meiseid, Member, Tourist Board, Town of Surfside	A member of the Town of Surfside Tourist Board may not apply for and be selected as the Town of Surfside's Tourism Director because the Town's Tourism Director interacts with and is subject to the policy-making authority of the Tourist Board; is required to attend Tourist Board meetings; and is directly involved in implementing the plans and procedures set by the Tourist Board. (JC)
17-57	(s)	John Manion, Esq., Skadden Arps	An out-of-state lobbyist seeking to interact with Miami International Airport (MIA) must register as a lobbyist with Miami-Dade County because MIA is a County agency. (JC)
17-58	(j), (d)	David Williams, Councilman, City of Miami Gardens	A Miami Gardens Councilman may serve as acting Executive Director of the North Dade Youth and Family Coalition (NDYFC) because the City of Miami Gardens has only a perfunctory pass-through role in the funding of NDYFC, and does not have control over the internal activities of the organization. The Councilman must recuse himself from any votes made by the City of Miami Gardens Commission that affect NDYFC during the Councilman's tenure as acting Executive Director of the coalition. (JC)
17-59	(t)(1)(c)(i)	Willy A. Bermello, Bermello Ajamil & Partners, Inc.	Under Section 2-11.1(t)(1)(c)(i) it would be permissible under the Cone of Silence for written communications to occur since such communication is not specifically prohibited in the bid documents, provided that a copy of the written communication is delivered to the Clerk of the Board and made a public record. (MM)
17-60	(j), (k), (g), (h), (x)	Annette Perez-Ruiz, HR Manager, Labor Relations, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an Energy Management Analyst at WASD does not have a conflict of interest involving her work as a consultant for Dream in Green (DIG), a non-profit environmental organization, because none of her assignments with DIG would include any programs run by WASD or Miami-Dade County; she has no authority to approve or disapprove any agreements for services between Miami-Dade County and DIG; and she would have no involvement in the oversight and/or administration of the Water Use Efficiency Unit at WASD that occasionally works with DIG. (RT)
17-61	(w)	Julian Manduley, IT Contracts & Procurement Manager, Miami-Dade County Information Technology Department	County employees may accept travel expenses from a County vendor when the terms of the vendor's contract require the vendor to pay for employees' travel expenses to vendor's annual conference in Washington, D.C. In this case, the County has provided adequate consideration for the travel expenses through the terms of the contract, which serve a public purpose. (GDG)

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17-62	(d) <i>directed to</i> Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat § 286.011 AGO 89-06	Martin Marquez, Candidate, City of Miami Springs City Council	While the Sunshine Law is not violated if a husband and wife were to serve simultaneously on the same City Council, such service is likely to create serious appearances of Sunshine Law violations, even if the spouses adhered strictly to the letter of the law, which could damage the public trust. (JC)
17-63	(g), (e)	John Riley, Commissioner, City of Opa- locka	The County Ethics Code does not prevent a City Councilman from donating his salary to the City for a lawful purpose. However, the City Councilman may not use his position as a City Commissioner or the City Commission's authority over the City budget to exercise or retain any power or authority over any of the City's personnel due to the donation, nor should he be accorded any special services by the City based upon such a donation. (JC)
17-64	(k)(2)	Shannon Tookes, Correctional Officer, Miami- Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Under the County Ethics Code, a County employee who owns 2 rental units (2 single family homes) does not engage in outside employment. However, County employees who manage 3 or more rental units must seek permission to engage in outside employment and file the required permission and disclosure form. (RT)
17-65	(j), (k)	Isabel Blanco, Clerk 3, Miami- Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest due to her work as an owner/landlord of 3 rental units, because her outside employment is completely unrelated to her County duties and would not impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties. (RT)
17-66	(j), (k), (h), (g)	Trenae Floyd, Administrative Officer 3, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest due to her work as an owner/President for Von Enterprises International, Inc., because her outside employment is completely unrelated to her County duties; and would not impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties. (RT)
17-67	(j), (k)	Lavern Carlile, Administrative Officer 2, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest due to her work as an owner/landlord for The LaVerne Carlile DBA LaVerne Carlile Rental Properties, because her outside employment is completely unrelated to her County duties; and would not impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties. (RT)

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17-68	(q)	Eli Tourgeman, Former Commissioner, Town of Surfside	Pursuant to the two-year rule, a former Commissioner of the Town of Surfside, for two years following completion of his term of office, may not lobby or attempt to influence any official decision in the Town of Surfside, by meeting with Town Manager and/or Town Tourist Board in order to influence them to make a decision on behalf of his new employer. (JC)
17-69	(v), (m)(2)	Jose Infante, Member, Naranja Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)	There is no conflict of interest for the Chairman of the Economic Development Council (EDC) and member of The Naranja CRA to vote on matters before the CRA in which the EDC has a policy interest, because he will not be directly affected by the vote; he will not appear before the CRA on behalf of the EDC; and he will not use his official position to gain special privileges or exemptions for the EDC. (JC)
17-70	(e)(4), (v)	Nancy Liebman, Member, City of Miami Beach Historic Preservation Board	The County Ethics Code does not prohibit a member of the City of Miami Beach Historic Preservation Board from attending a luncheon provided by Mango's restaurant to Miami Beach United, a community organization of which she is Former President and current board member, because the luncheon is unconnected to the Historic Preservation Board, and was not provided in connection with any governmental decision that may be taken by the recipient. The gift must be reported if its value exceeds \$100. Further, the proffer of the lunch would not create a prohibited voting conflict on any issue regarding Mango's pending before the Historic Preservation Board, because she will not be directly affected by the vote and does not have any of the Ethics Code's enumerated relationships to the entity appearing before the Historic Preservation Board. (JC)
17-71	(e)	Jose Nordarse, Chief, Information Services Division, Miami-Dade Property Appraiser's Office	The Chief of the Information Services Division of the Property Appraiser's Office may accept an invitation to a Miami IT Executive Family Sports Night hosted by C10, an IT Executive Concierge company that is not a County vendor, because there is no connection between the gift and any duty he may have or will perform in his public position. If the value of the gift exceeds \$100, he must report the gift on the County's quarterly disclosure form. (RT)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-72	(s)	Maritza Haro, Bercow Radell Fernandez & Larkin	A Principal who lobbies on behalf of his company, and also hires employees whose normal scope of employment include lobbying activities, must register as a lobbyist, and must also register as principal in order to complete a lobbying authorization for each lobbyist that represents him or her. (GDG)
17-73	(w)	Susana Ramirez-Lapp, Executive Assistant to Director, Miami-Dade Human Resources Department	The County Benefits Director and Benefits Supervisor may not accept any travel-related expenses from ICMA-RC, a County vendor, to attend the ICMA-RC Client Symposium, absent a waiver by majority vote of the County Commission. (JC)
17-74	(q), (s), (h)	Robert Fernandez, Esq., on behalf of a former County employee	A former County employee who wishes to contract with UM and/or FIU for consulting and/or lobbying services may do so because the 2-year prohibition on lobbying the County does not apply to former County employees representing nonprofit, governmental or educational entities. (GDG).
17-75	(k)	Sterling Osborne, Librarian Assistant, Miami-Dade Public Library	A County employee who occasionally performs electronic music in public venues for a fee, is engaged in outside employment and must comply with all outside employment requirements. (MP)
17-76	(v), (m)(2)	Michael Joseph, Esq., Miami-Dade Commission on Human Rights	An attorney and member of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) may not appear before another board, either directly or through an associate, within the County agency with which the CHR shares a common staff. Further, a law associate of a CHR board member may appear before the CHR board to represent a client, but the CHR board member must recuse himself from voting on matters related to the client of the associate. (MP)
17-77	(j), (k), (f)	Juan Armas, Chief, Strategic Business Planning, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS)	Pursuant to Section (j) of the Ethics Code, a PROS employee does not have a conflict of interest involving his employment with the County and his work as a rental concession attendant with Boucher Brothers, a County vendor, because his work with Boucher Brothers would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his County duties because it is unrelated to his County position; the employee has no involvement in the vendor's contract with the County; and his outside employment will not conflict with his County work hours. (MM).

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-78	(t)	Jose Smith, City Attorney, City of North Miami Beach	The Cone of Silence goes into effect at the time an RFP, RFQ, or bid is first announced, and is not lifted by the City Manager's seeking authorization to commence negotiations with the top ranked firm, but rather is lifted when the Manager files his or her written recommendation for the final award of the contract, because that is the point at which the solicitation ceases to be openly competitive. (JC)
17-79	(d)	Dennis Moss, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District # 9	A County Commissioner with a voting conflict need not absent himself from the "Reasonable Opportunity for the Public to be Heard" portion of the BCC meeting, but he may not make any comment about a matter regarding which he has a voting conflict during the public comment period. (JC)
17-80	(t)(4)	Thomas Pepe, City Attorney, City of South Miami	A municipality may opt out of the County Cone of Silence by adopting an ordinance stating the municipality opts out of the County's Cone of Silence, or by adopting an ordinance providing that it both opts out and also adopts its own Cone of Silence provision. (JC)
17-81	(d)	Joe Martinez, Commissioner, Miami-Dade County, District #11	A County Commissioner may not participate in a vote by the County Commission deciding on how to fund various community-based organizations (CBOs) because he is a board member of the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida, a CBO, which is expected to receive funding or otherwise be directly or indirectly affected by the County Commission's action. (JC)
17-82	(e) <i>directed to</i> <i>Citizens United v. FEC, 558 US 310(2010)</i> <i>McCormick v. US, 500 US 257 (1991)</i>	Russell Mackie, Shareholder, Waste Pro	Political contributions by government contractors are not considered gifts under County Ethics Ordinances and are permitted as long as there is no <i>quid pro quo</i> arrangement intended to influence official action. (JC)
17-83	(s)	Haven Krarup, Associate, Stantec Architecture	The completion of the lobbyist refresher training course within two years of the date of a person's initial lobbyist ethics training, satisfies any ongoing requirement by the County for lobbyist ethics training. (GDG)
17-84	(c), (g) RQO 09-20	Melinda Pearson, Capital Inventory Clerk, Miami-Dade Internal Services Department (ISD)	A County employee may participate in the Infill Program and the First Time Homebuyer Program as long as the County employee is not employed by the County department that enforces, oversees, or administers, the respective programs. (GDG)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-85	(c), (d)	Linda Forrest, Poinciana Development Group	An advisory board member serving on the Miami-Dade Small Business Enterprise Construction Advisory Board (SBECAB) may contract with the County without the limitations provided in Sections (c) and (d) of the County Ethics Code because the ordinance that established the SBECAB waives Sections (c) and (d) of the County Ethics Code for its advisory board members engaged in transactions arising from the exercise of the powers given to the advisory board. (GDG)
17-86	(t)	Phyllis Smith, Commissioner, City of North Miami Beach	During the time the Cone of Silence is in effect, a North Miami Beach Commissioner may obtain expert advice from an engineer outside of the City government with whom she is acquainted, regarding the pending RFQ because the communication is with an individual who is not employed, retained or associated with any of the respondents to the RFQ. (JC)
17-87	<i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. 112	Rafael Millares, Legal Counsel, Miami-Dade County Value Adjustment Board (VAB)	The COE may not provide binding opinions to the VAB or to the VAB Counsel under the County Code of Ethics because the VAB and its counsel position are created by Florida Statutes and are governed by State law. (JC)
17-88	(j)	Neil R. Singh, Acting Miami-Dade County Commission Auditor, Office of the Commission Auditor	An individual who works for Ross & Baruzzini, a Corporate Member of the Southwest Chapter of American Association of Airport Executives (SCAAAE), may not serve on a selection committee for an RFQ on which the SCAAAE is a competing vendor, because he works for an entity closely related to SCAAAE which would likely impair Mr. Adams' independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties as a selection committee member. (JC)
17-89	<i>directed to</i> Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat. § 286.011	Miriam Singer, Sr. Assistant Director, Procurement Section, Miami-Dade County Internal Services Department	The Sr. Assistant Director of the County Procurement Section's communication with two former members of the County's Professional Services Task Force will not violate the Sunshine Law because the Task Force has completed its work and there are no foreseeable matters that will come before that board. (JC)
17-90	<i>directed to</i> Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat. § 286.011	Martin Marquez, Candidate for City Council, City of Miami Springs	The Sunshine Law does not apply to candidates for public office who are not current members of a public board. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-91	(c) <i>directed to</i> City of Miami Code §2-612(a)	Shawshanna Shaw	The relative of a City of Miami employee may receive assistance from the County Public Housing and Community Development department (PHCD) because the contract is with the County and not with the City of Miami, the governmental entity that employs her relative. (GDG)
17-92	<i>directed to</i> Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat. § 286.011	David Acosta, Esq., Assistant Village Attorney, North Bay Village	A violation of the Sunshine law does not occur when the Village Clerk's office contacts members of the Village Commission for the purpose of ascertaining their availability for a meeting that had to be re-scheduled because it is merely a scheduling matter that does not involve any substantive discussion on a matter that would foreseeably come before the board for a vote. (JC)
17-93	(e)	Luis Collazo, Councilmember, Town of Miami Lakes	A Councilmember may accept complimentary entry to a charity golf tournament at Melreese Golf Club because the donor is not a Town vendor, contractor, or lobbyist. The Town official must report the ticket as a gift, if the value of the entry to the tournament minus the total amount that would be donated to the charity, exceeds \$100. (JC)
17-94	<i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. 112.3145(1)(a)	Luis Collazo, Councilmember, Town of Miami Lakes	Municipal officials who are required to comply with State financial disclosure requirements and file under Section 112.3145(1)(a), F.S., must file State Form 1 within 30 days of appointment and then annually by July 1 of each year. (GDG)
17-95	(j), (k)	Anita Jones, Special Projects Administrator 1, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest due to her work as a self-employed motivational speaker, because her outside employment is completely unrelated to her County duties and would not impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties. (RT)
17-96	(j), (k)	Seraphin Bernard, Special Projects Administrator 2, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest due to his work as a real estate broker, because his outside employment is completely unrelated to his County duties and would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties. (RT)
17-97	(j), (k)	Jason Santiago, Correctional Officer 1, Miami- Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest due to his work as a reserve police officer, because his outside employment is completely unrelated to his County duties; and would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties. (RT)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-98	(s)(2)(d) RQO 06-63 PQO 06-65 RQO 10-28	Kate Belinsky, Attorney, Nossaman LLP	Jackson Health System/Public Health Trust (PHT) vendors are required to register as lobbyists if they approach PHT staff seeking to influence the purchase of products or services which foreseeably will be reviewed by the PHT Board of Trustees of a PHT board or committee. (GDG)
17-99	(j), (k), (g), (h) RQO 12-11	Rudolf Griffith, Human Resources Manager, Miami- Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to sections (j) and (k) of the County Ethics Code, the Human Resources Manager for MDCR may provide private legal services to individuals and entities that are not employed by, hold elective office in, do business with, or have filed a lawsuit against Miami-Dade County. (RT)
17-100	(q), (m)(2)	Jack Kardys, Former Director, Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department	Under the two-year rule, the retired director of the County Parks Department may serve as the advisory board member on the Parks Department Taskforce for the Parks Foundation (a non- profit corporation that fundraises on behalf of the County's Park Department); he may make a presentation to the Taskforce advocating for park funding initiatives on behalf of the Parks Foundation; but he may not advocate, directly or indirectly, to the Taskforce on behalf of his private company, J Kardys Strategies LLC, or the County's Parks Department. (MP)
17-101	(i)	Carmen Bofill, Financial Disclosure Clerk 3, Miami-Dade Elections Department	Members of the Miami-Dade Taxi Advisory Board (TAB) should file the local Source of Income form provided they do not perform other duties that make them subject to Florida Statute 112.3245. (GDG)
17-102	(t)	Beth Spiegel, City Commissioner, City of North Miami Beach	While communications with the media are not covered by the prohibitions under the Cone of Silence, a City of North Miami Commissioner was advised to consider refraining from extensive comment on a pending procurement of the City's water and wastewater utility because it could be perceived as an attempt to influence the process. (JC)
17-103	(d) <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. §286.012	Cesar Mestre, Council Member, Town of Miami Lakes	While a legally prohibited conflict of interest may not exist under Section 2-11.1(d) of the County Ethics Code, a Town Councilman was advised not to vote at a quasi-judicial hearing on a zoning matter regarding Elevate Church of Miami Lakes because he has committed personal funds to the project in question, and as a church member, he would receive some benefit from the expanded and renovated church facility should the permit that is sought by the church be approved. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-104	(j), (k)(2)	Diana Isidore, Corrections Officer, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest due to her work as a real estate associate for Keller Williams Realty, because her outside employment is completely unrelated to her County duties; and would not impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties. (RT)
17-105	(e)	Helena Denham-Carter, Division Director, Miami-Dade County Human Resources Department	The County Director of Benefits and Employee Support Services may accept an invitation from the National Association of Counties (NACO), to attend a NACO Board meeting at the JW Marriott Miami Hotel because the event is related to her job duties and provides a benefit to the County. The gift must still be reported if its value exceeds \$100. (JC)
17-106	(d)	Joseph Corradino, Mayor, Village of Pinecrest	The Mayor of the Village of Pinecrest must recuse himself from voting on an item to settle a claim by an entity that is represented by The Cunningham Group because The Cunningham Group, which serves as a consultant to a company owned by the Mayor, would receive a financial benefit as a result of the vote and the Mayor's business relationship with The Cunningham Group could be enhanced by his vote on this matter. (JC)
17-107	(k)(2), (m)(1), (g)	Melinda Pearson, Capital Inventory Clerk, Miami-Dade Internal Services Department (ISD)	A County employee who has founded a nonprofit organization and serves as its Executive Director, a position traditionally compensated, is engaged in outside employment and must comport with all outside employment requirements. (GDG)
17-108	(k)(2), (m)(2), (h), (g)	Kimberley Green, Administrative Officer 3, Miami-Dade Homeless Trust	A County employee serving as the Treasurer for a nonprofit organization, as an unpaid volunteer, is not engaged in "outside employment" and consequently is not subject to the filing requirements. However the employee must refrain from using his or her position in the County in order to obtain special benefits for the nonprofit and is prohibited from appearing before any County board of agency to make a presentation or to seek a benefit on behalf of the nonprofit entity. (RT)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-109	(e)(4) <i>directed to</i> Fla. Stat. §112.3148	Yvonne Hamilton, Village Clerk, North Bay Village	City officials and their spouses may accept complimentary entry from a non-government entity to Miami-Dade County League of Cities events as the events are related to the official's duties. There may be reporting requirements, unless the amount of the cost of attendance is not greater than \$100. However, acceptance of a gift valued in excess of \$100 by an elected official from a government contractor or lobbyist is prohibited by Section 112.3148, F.S. (JC)
17-110	(v)	George Kousoulas, Advisory Board Member, Town of Surfside	The chairman of the Sustainability Subcommittee to the Town of Surfside's Planning and Zoning Board may not participate in the vote that will recommend "green" standards for the Town because he has a voting conflict of interest due to his proposed consultancy contract with an entity that could be affected by the committee's vote. (JC)
17-111	(j), (c), (d), (l), (n), (h), (m)(1), (x)	Leonard Enriquez, Director, Cambridge Project Development	The Director of Cambridge Project Department Inc. (Cambridge), a solid waste management consulting firm, may be hired as the Assistant Director for Technical Services at the County's Solid Waste Management Department, as long as he removes himself as a director and ceases work for the company; he divests himself of his ownership in the company; and Cambridge withdraws from the County's vendor registration and will not seek a contract with the County or any of its municipalities. (GDG)
17-112	(s)	Dusty Melton, Lobbyist	A sales representative at Jackson Memorial Hospital (JMH) engaged in influencing decisions that are made by a JMH product review committee is considered a lobbyist. Consequently, he must register as a lobbyist and must take the required lobbyist ethics course. (JC)
17-113	(j), (k)	Joel Botner, Commander, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest due to his work as a consultant/trainer for Policy Research Associates, because his outside employment is completely unrelated to his County duties; and would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties. (RT)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-114	(s), (h), (q) RQO 06-32 RQO 12-09 RQO 01-38	Daniel Mondesir, Senior Engineer, B&C Transit Inc.	Under the two-year rule, the County Ethics Code does not prohibit a former employee from working for a County vendor or becoming a County vendor himself. However, the employee would be prohibited from lobbying (i.e. influencing any County decision-makers) for the contract either on behalf of an employer or himself for two years after his County employment. (GDG)
17-115	<i>directed to</i> Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat. § 286.011	Norman Hegedus, Section Chief, Liaison Noise Abatement Advisory Board, Miami-Dade Aviation Department	Members of a County board may communicate with other board members in writing as long as the written communication is provided to the Clerk of the Board and no board member responds directly to such a communication from another board member. (JC)
17-116	(s)(2)(d)	Kate Belinski, Attorney, Nossaman LLP	A person who has registered as a lobbyist in the County must complete the lobbyist ethics training course within 60 days of registering. (GDG)
17-117	(k) RQO 06-48	Maria Perez, Telecommunicati ons Supervisor, Miami-Dade County Aviation Department	A County employee who owns and receives rental income from three or more separate rental units is engaged in outside employment and must comply with all outside employment requirements. (MP)
17-118	(s)	Linda Christian, Paralegal, Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, PA	An attorney (or other representative) appearing before the Village Council of the Village of Bal Harbour in a quasi-judicial proceeding must register as a lobbyist because the Village of Bal Harbour does not prohibit <i>ex parte</i> communications in quasi-judicial hearings, and the exception for the lobbyist registration requirement in quasi-judicial hearings is explicitly limited to proceedings which prohibit such communications. (JC)
17-119	(d)	Robert Meyers, Esq., Weiss Serota Helfman Cole Bierman	A member of a municipal Commission must recuse himself/herself from voting on an item that is brought in front of the Commission by an individual who is a business client of the Commissioner's insurance agency because the Commissioner might indirectly profit or be enhanced by the vote. (JC)
17-120	(e), (w)	Hydi Webb, Assistant Port Director, Business Development and Marketing, PortMiami	The PortMiami Director and CEO and Deputy Port Director may accept the invitation of Norwegian Cruise Line, a county contractor, to attend the inaugural ceremonies for their newest vessel, Norwegian Joy, in Shanghai, China, because the event is related to their job duties and the County will pay all expenses for the trip, including airfare, lodging, meals, and incidentals. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-121	(s)(6)(a)	Kristin Eberhardt, Senior Regulatory Analyst, Porzio Life Sciences	Section 2-11.1(s)(6)(a) requires lobbyists to file a Lobbyist Expenditure Report for lobbying expenditures in excess of \$25 for the preceding calendar year by July 1 st of each year. (GDG)
17-122	(e)(2)(b)	Kimberly Brown, AICP, Supervisor, Miami-Dade Regulatory and Economic Resources Department (RER)	A County employee may accept and need not disclose tickets to a charity event received from a spouse and given to the spouse for reasons unconnected to the County employee's employment by a donor who is not a County vendor, lobbyist, or contractor. (JC)
17-123	(e)(2)(e)	Victoria Mallette, Executive Director, Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust	The executive director of the Homeless Trust may use her position to solicit on behalf of The Florida Coalition for the Homeless, a not-for-profit organization, because the purpose is consistent with her County role, and the services provided by the organization will benefit the homeless in Miami-Dade County. She was advised to avoid direct solicitation of a County contractor, vendor, service provider or lobbyist to avoid the perception of any <i>quid pro quo</i> in connection with any solicited gift. (JC)
17-124	(w)	Shanda Mazzorana, Miami-Dade Information Technology Department (ITD)	An ITD employee is prohibited from accepting complimentary lodging and meal expenses from Elavon, a County vendor, absent a waiver by majority vote of the County Commission. (RT)
17-125	(e)	Vincent Brown, Esq., City Attorney, City of Opa-locka	The County Ethics Code does not prohibit the Opa-locka City Attorney from donating tickets to the Miami-Dade County League of Cities Gala to members of the City of Opa-locka Commission as long as the gift is not given in consideration for actions taken by the recipients. If the value of the gift exceeds \$100, it must be reported on a quarterly disclosure form. The City Attorney was further advised to obtain an ethics opinion from the State of Florida Commission on Ethics regarding whether the gift may be prohibited under Section 112.3148(4), Florida Statutes. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-126	(d)	Rebeca Sosa, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District #6	A County Commissioner employed by the School Board may vote on and sponsor an item entitled "Concurrency Proportionate Share Mitigation Development Agreement" between Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County Public Schools for school construction within her district because her employment is with a government entity and she will not profit or be enhanced by the vote. (JC)
17-127	(k) RQO 14-03	Adrian Torres, Building Manager, MDC Internal Services Department (ISD)	A County employee requesting military leave is not required to complete the County's Outside Employment paperwork because military service does not constitute outside employment under the Ethics Code. (GDG)
17-128	(j), (k), (h), (g) RQO 06-48	Shannon Tookes, Correctional Officer, MDC Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	A County employee who owns two rental units does not engage in outside employment under the County Ethics Code which, per COE interpretation, requires more than two units to qualify as outside employment. However, County departments may impose stricter requirements than are found in the County ethics code, and may require outside employment permission for only two units. (RT)
17-129	(j), (k), (h), (g) RQO 08-29 RQO 08-45	Guillermo Pastrana, A/C and Refrigeration Mechanic, MDC Water and Sewer Department (WASD)	Pursuant to sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, a WASD employee does not have a conflict of interest with his outside employment performing residential electrical work through his privately-owned company, Thermal Controls, Inc., because his outside employment would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties and it will not conflict with his County employment hours. (RT)
17-130	(k)	Sherling Osborne, Public Librarian Assistant, Miami-Dade Public Library	A County employee who regularly provides compensated gardening services and other miscellaneous household tasks for someone else, is engaged in outside employment and must comply with all outside employment requirements. (MP)
17-131	(g)	Reynaldo J. Garcia, Construction Manager 3, MDC Aviation Department (MDAD)	The Construction Manager (CM) for Aviation Project No. EDP-AV-2014-S1-2 could have a conflict regarding his approval of the only sub-contractor proposer, Stantec, because his son works for Stantec and the CM's exercising discretion over the approval could be perceived as exploitation. In order to avoid an appearance of impropriety created by his son's employment with Stantec, the CM was advised to delegate his authority relating to the approval of the subcontractor to another Aviation manager/employee. (MP)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-132	(w)	Raul G. Ordonez, III, Director Office of Compliance and Ethics, Jackson Memorial Hospital (JMH)	County and PHT employees may not accept travel expenses from a County vendor unless they obtain a waiver from the Board of County Commissioners, unless there is a contractual provision written into the vendor's contract, requiring payment of travel or travel-related expenses for County and PHT employees. (JC)
17-133	(q), (s) RQO 11-26	Federico Endara, former employee, Miami-Dade County	A former employee within the two-year period after his County employment, may represent a party during quasi-judicial proceedings in the County, which prohibits ex-parte communications during such proceedings, but may not meet with County personnel outside of such hearings in connection with such representation. (JC)
17-134	(s)(2)(d)	Corey Roe, Ferring Pharmaceuticals	The completion of the lobbyist refresher training course, within two years of the date of a person's initial lobbyist ethics training, satisfies any ongoing requirement by the County for lobbyist ethics training. (GDG)
17-135	(s)(1)(b)	Douglas Terry, P.E., Chief Operating Officer, Aegis Company	Members of a vendor's technical team, attending a presentation by the vendor before the Board of County Commissioners for the sole purpose of answering questions relating to their areas of expertise, 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. (JC)
17-136	(j), (k), (h), (g) RQO 08-29 RQO 08-45	Edgar Roa, Electrician, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, a WASD employee does not have a conflict of interest with his outside employment regarding residential electrical work done through his privately-owned company, Ertech Engineering Services, Inc., because his outside employment would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties and will not conflict with his County employment hours. (RT)
17-137	(j), (k), (h), (g) RQO 08-29 RQO 08-45	James Zuniga, Trade Superintendent, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, a WASD employee does not have a conflict of interest with his outside employment regarding electrical work done through his privately-owned company, Infinity Plus Electric Inc., because his outside employment would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties and will not conflict with his County employment hours. (RT)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-138	(s)	Richard Heisenbottle, RJ Heisenbottle Architects	The completion of the lobbyist refresher training course, within two years of the date of a person's initial lobbyist ethics training, satisfies any ongoing requirement by the County for lobbyist ethics training. (RT)
17-140	directed to Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat. § 286.011	Matthew Pigatt, Commissioner, City of Opa-locka	A City Commissioner may meet with the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk without the necessity of meeting the notice and accessibility requirements of the Sunshine Law. (JC)
17-141	(k)(2), (c), (d)	Antonio Whitley, Officer, Miami-Dade Police Department	An officer with MDPD may contract with the County through his privately-owned company, but he may not contract with MDPD, the department that employs him, and he may not lobby the County for the contract. (GDG)
17-142	(d)	Michael Karukin, Commissioner, Town of Surfside	A Commissioner of the Town of Surfside, who spoke to an attorney regarding his potentially serving as a consultant for a business owned by the attorney's husband but did not enter into any business consultant relationship with that business, may vote on an upcoming item before the Town Commission regarding a client of the same attorney because the Commissioner does not have a business relationship with the attorney or her husband that would create a voting conflict under Section 2-11.1(d), and the Commissioner would not profit or be personally enhanced by the vote. (JC)
17-143	(w)	Russell Baker, Accountant 3, Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD)	A County employee is prohibited from accepting travel expenses from her outside employer, Allapattah Community Action Agency (ACA), a County contractor, absent a waiver by majority vote of the County Commission. (JC)
17-144	(t)	George Par, Special Projects Administrator, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD)	Under Section 2-11.1(t)(1)(a)viii it would be permissible under the Cone of Silence for a County contracting officer to contact an individual on the Procurement Management Services staff, who also serves as a member of the selection committee, to obtain answers to technical or procedural questions from bidders, provided that the contracting officer does not identify the bidder asking the question and does not attempt to exert influence on the selection process itself. (JC)
17-145	directed to Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat. § 286.011	Mellissa Gallo, Esq., Policy and Program Director, Miami Homes for All	A designee of a board member, who executes the functions of the appointed board member, may not communicate with another board member regarding board business unless the requirements of the Sunshine Law are met. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-146	directed to Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat. § 286.011	David Acosta, Assistant Village Attorney, North Bay Village	Communication among board members or their aides regarding the mere setting of an agenda item, as a purely procedural matter, would not usually create a Sunshine Law violation. However, because the Village passed a resolution stating that a rescheduled meeting of the board must be set by “majority vote of its members,” the vote to reschedule the meeting must be done at a public meeting held in accordance with the Sunshine Law. (JC)
17-147	directed to Fla. Stat. § 112.313(7)	Ronda Vangates, Esq., Economic Opportunity Development Officer, Miami-Dade County Public Schools	The COE has no legal jurisdiction over employees of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, in connection with whether a School employee has a conflict of interest due to having an outside employment contractual relationship with a school vendor. The provisions of Section 112.313(7), Florida Statutes, should be reviewed in assessing such a possible conflict. (JC)
17-148	(j), (k)	Myrlene Summerset, Administrative Officer 3, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	A County employee who is compensated for the work that he or she performs for a non-profit entity, is engaged in outside employment and the employee is required to complete the outside employment paperwork. (GDG)
17-149	(x)	David Wood, Program Manager, AECOM	Under the reverse two-year rule, a WASD construction management field inspector, who was previously employed by a general contractor business that was a County vendor/service provider, may participate in a current WASD project because the work he performed for his former employer was completed prior to his County employment and is not related to his present County duties and responsibilities as a field inspector for the WASD project. (GDG)
17-150	(j) RQO 00-10 AO 7-1	Emma Lew, Medical Examiner, Miami-Dade Medical Examiner’s Office (ME)	Although COE opinions regarding possible conflicts of interest in outside employment should be consulted, a County supervisor may deny an outside employment request if he or she determines that the outside employment is “contrary, detrimental, or adverse to the interest of the County or any of its departments,” even if no legal conflict exists. (JC)
17-151	(j), (k)	Eddie Kirtley, Assistant County Attorney, Miami-Dade County Attorney’s Office (CAO)	A County employee who performs occasional sales on eBay, is not engaged in outside employment, where the transactions do not involve a clearly commercial purpose. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-152	(s)	Neil Weare, Attorney, Trister, Ross, Schadler & Gold, PLLC	Any individual or firm hired by a non-profit organization to lobby on its behalf on a compensated basis must register as a lobbyist, is exempt from paying the registration fee, but must complete and pay for the lobbyist ethics training course. However, a grassroots organization that does not meet with County officers and staff but encourages citizens to contact their elected officials to support certain issues is not required to register as a lobbyist. (GDG)
17-153	(s)(2)(d)	Kathi A. Arcaro, HCP Transparency Analyst, Porzio Life Sciences LLC	The County Ethics Code does not prohibit any individual or employee of a company, who does not engage in lobbying, from paying for and attending the Lobbyist Ethics Training provided by the COE. (GDG)
17-154	(j), (k)(2)	Lashonda Knight, Sergeant, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	A County employee who owns two rental units does not engage in outside employment under the County Ethics Code which, per COE interpretation, requires more than two units to qualify as outside employment. However, County departments may impose stricter requirements than are found in the County ethics code, and may require outside employment permission for only two units. (RT)
17-155	(d)	Enid Weisman, Mayor, City of Aventura	The Mayor of the City of Aventura, who serves as member of the Board of Trustees for Aventura Hospital and Medical Center (AH), may not vote on an upcoming item before the City Commission regarding the expansion of AH because of her position on AH's Board of Trustees, as well as the fact that she could be personally enhanced by the vote. (JC)
17-156	(d)	Rebecca Sosa, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District #6	A County Commissioner employed by the School Board may vote on an item currently before the Transportation and Public Works Committee of the Board of County Commissioners because her employment is with a government entity and she will not profit or be enhanced by the vote. (JC)
17-157	directed to Miami-Dade County Charter Section 1.05	Laurea Rambeau, County Employee, African Heritage Cultural Arts Center	A County employee who qualifies as a candidate for Miami-Dade School Board must take a leave of absence from her County position until the date of the election and shall, if elected, immediately forfeit her County position. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-158	(v)	Anely Herrera, Aviation Planner, Miami-Dade Aviation Department	A prospective member of a selection committee may serve on the committee even though her husband's company has performed work in the past for bidders competing for the contract because of the remoteness of any business contact her husband has had with the firms in the past; there is no direct relationship between her and any of the prospective firms; and it is unlikely that she could not be fair and objective in evaluating the firms. (JC)
17-159	directed to Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat. § 286.011	M. David McGriff, Director, Advocate Program	The Director of the Advocate Program may serve on the Miami-Dade County Safety Coordinating Council Committee as long as he does not have any private conversations through his employment, with other board members about matters that will foreseeably come before the board on which they jointly serve. (JC)
17-160	(s)	Paula Garcia, Stifel Corp	Miami-Dade lobbyist expenditure forms may be completed in paper form, and online through the Miami-Dade Clerk of the Board's Lobbyist Online Registration System (LORIS). (GDG)
17-161	(g), (h)	Joseph Lovermi, Construction Manager, Miami-Dade Internal Services Department (ISD)	While the friendship between a County employee and the owner of County vendor, V-Engineering & Consulting Corp (VECC), may not create a violation of the Ethics Code, the County employee is advised to discuss the matter with his County supervisors to determine whether the County employee's duties that includes oversight of the County's contract with VECC should be re-considered in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety. (MP)
17-162	(j), (k) RQO 16-02 RQO 99-50	Evelyn Campos, Division Director of Professional Compliance, Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)	A County employee who serves as a Terminal Operations Specialist should be denied permission to engage in outside employment as a part-time employee of Eulen, a County vendor, because in her employment with Eulen she will work in the same facility and concourse that she performs her County duties; she will come in contact with the same or similar people or entities in both her outside employment and her public position; and she would perform similar duties in her public employment and in her outside employment. (GDG)
17-163	(g), (j), (c)(2), (d), (m)(1)	Antonio Whitley, Officer, Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD)	An Officer with MDPD may contract with the County through his privately-owned company, but he may not contract with MDPD, the department that employs him, and he may not lobby the County for the contract. (GDG)
17-164	directed to Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat § 286.011	Richard Heisenbottle, Architect, R.J. Heisenbottle Architects, P.A	An interested individual or party may speak with a board member prior to a quasi-judicial hearing in the City of Miami, provided that the board member discloses the conversation on the record during the hearing. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-165	(k)(2)	Andy Fernandez, Firefighter, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR)	A County employee whose home address is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Section 119.071(4)(d)(20(b), Fla. Stat., may use his or her office address as the mailing address in lieu of his or her home address, when filling out the Outside Employment Statement. (MP)
17-166	(c)(2)	Nelson Mejias, Airport Supervisor, Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)	The County airport supervisor may enter into a business transaction with a County vendor to park his plane at the Miami Airport as long as he does not oversee, supervise, or monitor the County vendor's contract with the County; and the fee and other ancillary services charged or provided by the County vendor will be set at a price and upon terms available to similarly situated members of the general public. (MP)
17-167	(g), (e)	Lakeisha Brown, Manager, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD)	County departments have the discretion to set their own policies regarding the use of their facilities by outside entities provided that a public official or County employee does not use his or her official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or others; and the outside entities does not bestow an improper gift to County employees that would not constitute a legitimate public purpose. (JC)
17-168	(d)	Rebecca Sosa, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District #6	A County Commissioner employed by the School Board may vote on an item currently before the Government Operations Committee of the Board of County Commissioners because her employment is with a government entity and she will not profit or be enhanced by the vote. (JC)
17-169	(j), (k) RQO 00-10 RQO 12-07	Evelyn Campos, Division Director of Professional Compliance, Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)	It is recommended that the revised outside employment policy for Miami-Dade Aviation Department include County Ordinance Sections 2-11.1(j) and (k), the conflicting and outside employment sections of the County Ethics Code. (GDG)
17-170	(c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(4), (b)(9)	Miriam Singer, Chief Procurement Officer/Sr. Assistant Director, Miami-Dade Internal Services Department (ISD)	A conflict of interest exists where a prospective Worker's Compensation Adjuster in the Internal Services Department, would work for the department that oversees and administers the contract between the County and his spouse's company, Reliable Rehabilitation and Consulting LLC, absent a waiver by majority vote of the County Commission. (RT)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-171	(j), (k) RQO 15-03 RQO 12-11	Michael Mut, Public Information Officer, Miami Dade Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM)	Pursuant to sections (j) and (k) of the County Ethics Code, the public information Officer for DSWM does not have a conflict of interest involving his work as a founder/consultant for Mut Communications because he does not contract with and is not seeking to contract with DSWM; he will not perform any work for County vendors that contract with DSWM; it is unlikely that he will deal with the same persons or entities in his outside employment that he deals with during his job functions at DSWM; it does not appear that he could solicit business for his outside employment while working at the County; he will not perform any work for private individuals or entities that have positions adverse to the County; and all his work for Mut Communications would occur outside of your County hours of employment. (RT)
17-172	(b)(1), (b)(5), (b)(6), (bb)	Maggie Olano, Administrative Board Officer, Miami-Dade Homeless Trust	Homeless Trust board members are required to complete an ethics training course developed by the Ethics Commission pursuant to Miami-Dade Resolution 189-05. (GDG)
17-173	(bb)	Audrey Edmonson, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District #3	An elected official that has completed the required training under Section 2-11.1(bb), in addition to ethics training required of all constitutional offices in the State of Florida under Section 112.3143, Fla. Stat., has satisfied any requirement by the County for advisory board ethics training. (JC)
17-174	(v), (x)	James F. Murley, Prospective Selection Committee Member	An individual who previously served as the Executive Director of South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC), may not serve on a selection committee for an RFQ on which SFRPC is a sub-consultant for one of the responding firms, because his relatively recent relationship with SFRPC would likely obscure Mr. Murley's independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties as a selection committee member. (JC)
17-175	(j)	Dr. Alejandra Duran, Veterinarian, Miami-Dade Animal Services Department (ASD)	Pursuant to sections (j) and (k) of the County Ethics Code, a Veterinarian for ASD may provide private veterinarian services for clinics and private individuals because she will not solicit business for her private practice while she is on duty at ASD; she will not use County resources to advance or promote her outside employment; she will not see the same clients at both ASD and her private practice; and ASD staff will not refer clients to her private practice. (MP)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-176	(d)	Carol Keys, Councilwoman, City of North Miami	A Council woman of the City of North Miami may vote on updating the City of North Miami Zoning Map, even though she is in the process of purchasing a piece of property in the City, because she will not personally profit or be enhanced by the vote since the Zoning Map has a citywide effect and only confirms the existing zoning for the city, and does not effect any real change that would personally benefit the Councilwoman. (JC)
17-177	(c)(2), (d)	Walfrido Pevida, Pevida Highway Designers, PLLC	The spouse of a County employee may contract with the County through his privately-owned company, but he may not contract with the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works that employs his spouse; his spouse, the County employee, may not lobby the County for the contract; may have no involvement in determining the contract requirements; and shall not be involved in the contract in any way. (GDG)
17-178	(m)	Thomas Davis, Director of Policy and Legislation, Miami-Dade Office of the Commission Auditor	A County employee is not prohibited from serving as an unpaid member of the Board of Directors for the Chapman Partnership, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization which serves a major service provider for the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, because he has no financial interest in the operations of the Chapman Partnership. The employee was advised that he must avoid dealing in his County position with any item involving the Chapman Partnership, either directly or indirectly through its connection with the Homeless Trust; and he must refrain from representing the Chapman Partnership before the Homeless Trust or any other County Board. (JC)
17-179	(c), (d), (m)(1)	Mirta Santa Rossa, Court Records Specialist, Miami-Dade Clerk of Courts (COC)	A court records specialist with the Clerk of Courts (COC) may contract with the County through her privately-owned company, but she may not contract with COC, the department that employs her, and she may not lobby the County for the contract. (GDG)
17-180	(b)(2), (j)	Charles Scurr, Executive Director, Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT)	A conflict of interest would exist for the Executive Director of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) to hire the firm of Cameron Downing for Certified Financial Planning services because Mr. Glenn Downing, a partner in the firm, serves as a member of the CITT board providing oversight of the executive director's position; and a business relationship of this type involving a benefit to Mr. Downing, could impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-181	(q), (s), (h) RQO 12-09 RQO 14-02 RQO 11-24 RQO09-36 RQO 08-18 RQO 06-54 RQO 04-34	George Navarrete, Director, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces (PROS)	Under the two-year rule, a former County employee, may form his own business and/or be employed with firms that do business with the County. However, the employee is prohibited from lobbying the County for a two-year period following his separation from the County. Additionally, pursuant to Section 2-11.1(h), the former County employee may not disclose confidential information acquired as a result of his County employment, and may not use such information directly or indirectly for his personal benefit. (MP)
17-182	(i)	Elizabeth Regalado, Executive Director, Miami-Dade Domestic Overnight Board	Members of the Miami-Dade Domestic Oversight Board should file the County Source of Income form, provided that they do not perform other duties that make them subject to Florida Statute 112.3245. (GDG)
17-183	(x)	Pablo Valin, A/E Consultant Selection Coordinator, Miami-Dade County Internal Services Department (ISD)	Pursuant to Section (x) of the County Ethics Code, a former employee of a business entity, is not prohibited from serving on a selection committee for an RFQ for which the business entity has applied, because her relationship with the business entity was terminated over two years prior to her service on the selection committee. (MP)
17-184	(w)	Ganesh R. Shanbhag, Sr. Operating Systems Programmer, Miami-Dade County Information Technology Department	A County employee is prohibited from accepting lunch vouchers in Poughkeepsie, NY, associated with attending an IBM course he is attending, which was offered as a courtesy to all participants by IBM, a County contractor, absent a waiver by majority vote of the County Commission. (MM)
17-185	(j), (k) RQO 16-02 RQO 99-50	Sara Del Calvo, Aviation Compliance Professional, Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)	A County employee who serves as a Maintenance Repairman should be denied permission to engage in outside employment as a part-time employee of Cavotec, a County vendor, because in his employment with Cavotec he would work in the same facility that he performs his County duties; he would come in contact with the same or similar people or entities in both his outside employment and his public position; he could be induced to use confidential information obtained during his County duties to benefit his private employer; and he would perform similar duties in his public employment and in his outside employment. (GDG)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-186	(g)	Sarah Cody, Historic Preservation Chief, Miami-Dade County Office of Historic Preservation	The Historic Preservation Chief (HPC) does not have a prohibited conflict of interest where her husband is employed as the front desk supervisor of Vagabond Hotel, an entity which has applied for tax exemption through the Miami-Dade County Office of Historic Preservation, because neither the HPC nor her spouse would stand to benefit personally from the approval of the application for tax exemption; and the HPC would not make any recommendations on the application. (GDG)
17-187	(c)(2), (g), (m)	Javier Pastrana, Mr. Threadz, LLC	The son of the executive assistant to the supervisor of elections may contract with Miami-Dade County through his privately-owned company, Mr. Threadz LLC, but he may not contract with the Miami-Dade County Elections Department that employs his mother. The mother may not lobby the County for the contract; and she may not be involved in the contract in any way. (GDG)
17-188	(b)(8)	Beverly Hall, Sr. Human Resources Manager, Miami-Dade County Internal Services Department (ISD)	It is recommended that a Miami-Dade County Internal Services Department Conflict of Interest Declaration for New Hires, include Section 2-11.1(b)(8) of the Ethics Code, which defines the term “controlling financial interest.” (RT)
17-189	(m)(1), (h), (g)	Desmond Alufohai, International Trade Coordinator, Miami-Dade Regulatory and Economic Resources Department (RER)	A County employee who serves as a board member for a nonprofit organization must refrain from using his or her position in the County to obtain special benefits for the nonprofit, and is prohibited from appearing before any County board or agency to make a presentation or seek a benefit on behalf of the nonprofit entity. (RT)
17-190	(c), (d) RQO 04-192 RQO 01-141	Farrell Owens, Police Officer, Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD)	While the Ethics Code sets limitations on County employees contracting with the County, it does not cover which type of business organizations employees may use to transact business with the County. (GDG)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-191	(s)	Meighan Alexander, Assistant Grants Analyst, Miami-Dade County Office of Management and Budget (OMB)	Under the County lobbyist ordinance, a person designated by a corporation as a Principal, who is responsible for lobbying on behalf of his/her organization, is required to register as a lobbyist unless that person will be appearing only before a selection or evaluation committee, in which case he or she not need to register but must be listed on an affidavit provided by the County and filed with the County Clerk of the Board. Lobbyists must complete Lobbyist Ethics Training within 60 days of registration during which time they may lobby. (JC)
17-192	(v)	Neil R. Singh, Acting Commission Auditor, Miami-Dade County Office of the Commission Auditor (OCA)	A member of the selection committee for Miami-Dade Aviation Department Request to Advertise for Airport Wayfinding/Signage Design Services-Project No. A16-MDAD-04, does not have a voting conflict even though her former employer, M C Harry and Associates, has responded to the RTA, because her employment with M C Harry was over 35 years ago and she has no current employment or other relationship with her former employer or fellow employees. (JC)
17-193	(x), (v)	Neil R. Singh, Acting Commission Auditor, Miami-Dade County Office of the Commission Auditor (OCA)	A non-voting member of the selection committee for Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust's Request for Applications (RFA) for the 2017 NOFA Collaborative Application, may serve on the committee even though his former employer, Citrus Health Network, INC., has responded to the RTA, because he will serve on a committee that involves a renewal contract in which there is no competitor. A second member of the same selection committee, whose former employer, Carrefour Supportive Housing, has responded to the RTA, should not serve on the committee even though he does not have a legal voting conflict, because there may be an appearance of a conflict resulting from his employment by Carrefour less than five years prior to his service on the committee. (JC)
17-194	(j)	Roxana Barba, Projects Administrator, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs	The project administrator for Miami-Dade County's Cultural Affairs Department (DOCA) may work for Miami Theatre Center Inc., a recipient of a County SAS-Grant, because she does not have any involvement with the MTC's grant agreement with the County. (MP)
17-195	(b)(4), (v)	Jose Infante, Redland Market Village, Inc.	Members of the Project Advisory Group on South Corridor Rapid Transit Project formed by the Miami-Dade County Department of Public Works are not subject to the Ethics Code because there is no County Ordinance or Resolution mandating its formation; it has no official decision-making authority; and it will not take any votes making recommendations to the decision-makers on the project. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-196	(e)	Zari Watkins, Public Health Trust-Jackson Health Systems	Because activities to support the United Way are explicitly sanctioned by the Mayor or the BCC, PHT/JHS employees may solicit gifts for the United Way but they should not target County vendors or County contractors. (GDG)
17-197	(s)(1)(b)	Alex Palenzuela, Esq.	An attorney seeking to meet with the County Director of Public Works and Transportation due to his representation of a principal on an action, decision, or recommendation to be made by the Director, that will be foreseeably heard or received by the BCC, is required to register as a lobbyist and take the County lobbyist ethics training course. (JC)
17-198	RQO 17-02	Juan Kuryla, PortMiami	The COE does not identify or determine the existence of organizational conflicts of interest in the County's procurement process. Its role is limited to the approval or disapproval of the measures implemented by the County to resolve a conflict that is identified by the County officer or department involved in the procurement. (MP)
17-199	(a), (s) Town of Surfside Code §2-235(b)	Eli Tourgeman, President, Surfside Business Association	A person who only appears as an uncompensated representative of a nonprofit corporation or entity, to express support or opposition to any item, must register as a lobbyist with the Clerk but is exempted from the registration fee. (MP)
17-200	(v)	Neil R. Singh, Acting Commission Auditor, Miami-Dade County Commission	Two members of the selection committee for Miami-Dade County Regulatory and Economic Resources Department Request to Advertise for Design Services for Developing an Adaptation Strategy to Respond to Sea Level Rise – Project No. E16-RER-01, do not have a voting conflict because neither of them would be directly affected by the vote and they do not have any existing relationship prohibited under Section (v) of the Ethics Code with an entity coming before the board. However, the Internal Services Department's Procurement Management Services Division should consider whether the two individuals should serve on the committee due to the recency of relationships that they have had with individuals or entities involved with this particular project. (JC)
17-201	(g)	Johnny Farias, Community Councilmember, District 15	The County Ethics Code does not prohibit a Councilmember from identifying himself as a Councilmember in a banner exhibited at an event on behalf of Farm Share, a 501(c)(3) organization. (MP)
17-202	(j), (k), (h), (g)	Anthony Yeber, Lieutenant, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	The Executive Officer for the Monitored Release Unit at MDCR may accept outside employment as an adjunct professor at Florida International University, a county vendor, because his public duties at MDCR and his job responsibilities as an adjunct professor in FIU's Department of Criminal Justice are not closely related and would not conflict. (RT)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-203	(e)	Xavier Alban, Assistant City Attorney, city of Miami	The County Ethics Code does not prohibit a member of the City of Miami Commission from establishing a GoFundMe page to collect money to install solar panels throughout the City of Miami because the Commission member will not derive any financial benefit from the program and there is a clear public purpose intended to benefit the City of Miami, a government entity. (JC)
17-204	(b)(13)	Deborah Margol, Deputy Director, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs	The GableStage, a not-for-profit arts/theatre company that contracts with Miami-Dade County for the management and operation of the Coconut Grove Playhouse, is not subject to the County Ethics Code unless its contract with Miami-Dade County has been designated by the County to comply with specified provisions of the County Ethics Code pursuant to the Sec. 2-11.1(b)(13). (MP)
17-205	(e)(2), (g)	Johnny Farias, Community Councilmember, District #15	A Community Councilmember and his team may wear shirts with the Councilmember's official title during a "Book Bag Days" event hosted by the Guardian Ad Litem Program, provided that the use of Councilmember's official title is solely for identification purposes and not for personal gain or benefit or to promote his private business interests. (MP)
17-206	(v)	Pedro Betancourt, Aviation Sr. Procurement Contract Officer, Miami-International Airport (MIA)	A County Park Manager assigned to Crandon Park would not have a prohibited conflict serving on a selection committee for the County's Aviation Department RFP for Janitorial services-RFP No. MDAD-03-16, where the lobbyist for one of the bidders leases cabana space at Crandon Park, because the County Park Manager would not personally benefit from the vote and he does not have a prohibited relationship with any of the parties. (MP)
17-207	(d) directed to Fla. Stat. § 286.012	Marcos Villanueva, City Commissioner, City of Sweetwater	While a legally prohibited conflict of interest may not exist under Section 2-11.1(d) of the County Ethics Code, a City Commissioner was advised to confer with his City Attorney regarding whether it would be appropriate for him recuse himself under Fla. Stat §286.012, on a vote to determine whether a former police officer of the City of Sweetwater should be reinstated to his police position because the evidence provided during the quasi-judicial hearing may consist in part of his own testimony. (JC)
17-208	(v) RQO 05-50	Samuel Quintero, Board Member, HIV/AIDS Partnership	A Board Member of the HIV/AIDS Partnership may not vote on an item to fund a Food Bank for which his employer, Care Resource, is the sole provider in that service category pursuant to RQO 05-50. (RT)
17-209	(s)(1)(b)	Robert Meyers, Esq., Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.	An unpaid spokesperson requesting in-kind services from the County or a municipality on behalf of a nonprofit organization is not required to register as a lobbyist under Section 2-11.1(s)(1)(b) of the Ethics Code. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-210	(s)(1)(b)	Egerton Anderson, President, Miami Seaplane Tours, Inc.	Under the County lobbyist ordinance, a Principal who lobbies on behalf of his or her organization is required to register as a lobbyist and take the ethics course but is exempted from the registration fee. (GDG)
17-211	(j), (k), (g), (h), (m) RQO 16-02 RQO 15-03	Robert Alvarez, Welder, Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM)	A County employee for DSWM may engage in outside employment with his own welding company, General Welder, because it will not transact business with the County or any County vendor, and will not involve any use of County time or resources. (RT)
17-212	directed to Fla. Stat § 112.3135	Aniley Perez, Member, Planning and Zoning Board, North Bay Village	The County Ethics Code does not contain a Nepotism provision. However, Fla. Sta. 112.3135, would prohibit the spouse of a Village Commissioner from serving on the Village's Planning and Zoning Board, if the appointment of members to the Planning and Zoning Board is made by the Village Commission on which her spouse serves. (JC)
17-213	directed to Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat § 286.011 AGO 98-28	Ysabely Rodriguez, Village Clerk, Miami Shores Village	As the COE does not have enforcement authority over violations of the Sunshine Law and there has been no definitive legal ruling regarding whether an elected official may participate and vote via teleconference during a Council meeting where there is a quorum present, the COE defers to local municipal attorneys on this issue. (JC)
17-214	(n), (b)(9), (v) directed to Miami-Dade County Code § 2-1067	Neil R. Singh, Acting Commission Auditor, Miami-Dade County Commission	A prospective member of a selection committee does not have a voting conflict of interest under Section 2-11.1(v) of the Ethics Code where his brother-in law is the owner and principal of Ambro, Inc., a sub-consultant for one of two responding prime contractors for the project because in-laws are not included in the definition of "immediate family" under Section 2-11.1(b)(9) of the Ethics Code; he would not be directly affected; and does not have any of the enumerated relationships required for there to be a voting conflict. However, it is advisable that the individual not serve on this selection committee, due to the perception of a conflict of interest. (JC)
17-215	(i)	Bibiana Candame, Human Resources Manager, Miami-Dade Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER)	An Assistant County Director, who does not have final purchasing authority exceeding \$20,000, and who does not serve on any County or State Board is required to file the County "Source of Income Statement," by July 1st every year rather than the State Disclosure Form. (GDG)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-216	(c), (k), (m)(1)	Marilyn Davis, Seaport Field Technician, Miami-Dade County Seaport	A Seaport employee may contract with the County through her privately-owned company, but she may not contract with Seaport, the County department that employs her, and she may not lobby the County for the contract. (GDG)
17-217	(c)(2), (d), (g), (m)(1)	Julio Mena, Master Road Finishers Corporation	The parent of a County employee may contract with the County through his privately-owned engineering company, but he may not contract directly with the Miami-Dade County department that employs his son. His son may not lobby the County for the contract; he may have no involvement in determining the contract requirements; and shall not be involved in the contract in any way. (RT)
17-218	(j), (k) directed to Miami-Dade County Code § 2-11.1	Shawntia Kirkland, Personnel Specialist 2, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	As the determination regarding whether a County employee should engage in outside employment requires the permission of his/her County supervisor, even where no conflict exists, County departments can set limitations and conditions on a County employee's outside employment that comply with local, state, and federal laws; and with the County human resources procedures. (GDG)
17-219	(bb)	Kevin Newman, Esq., State & Federal Communications	Lobbyists that register to lobby Miami-Dade County must complete the lobbyist ethics course within 60 days of registering to lobby. (JC)
17-220	(e), (g) directed to Fla. Stat. § 104.31, and § 106.15(4)	Jennifer Walker, Chief of Human Resources Division, Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation	County employees are not prohibited from making a campaign contribution or participating in a political campaign. However, a County employee is prohibited from using her County position or title to exert any official authority or pressure to affect the outcome of an election, and may not use County time or resources in a political campaign. (JC)
17-221	(j), (k) RQO 09-16 RQO 10-01 directed to AO 7-1	Lynnette A. Chiverton, Paratransit Operations Administrator, Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works	A County employee who works as a Special Transportation Services Eligibility Interviewer should be denied permission to engage in outside employment as a driver with Uber and Lyft, because such employment is closely related to the work she performs for the County. Her County position requires her to frequently interact with the members of the public that require for-hire transportation services which are the same category of persons that she would transport as an Uber or Lyft driver; and her outside employment would likely affect her ability to exercise independent judgment in the performance of her official duties at the County. (GDG)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-222	(c)(5)(5), (b)(9)	Brenda Molina, Applicant Second Mortgages Program, PHCD	The sister-in-law of a County employee who works for MDPD may participate in the County's Home-Ownership Second Mortgages Program because in-laws are not included in the definition of "immediate family" under Section 2-11.1(b)(9) of the Ethics Code; the County employee is not employed by PHCD the department that administers the program; and the County employee has no oversight or administrative duties with respect to the program. (GDG)
17-223	(d)	Rebeca Sosa, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District #6	A County Commissioner employed by the School Board's Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center may not vote or participate on a resolution authorizing execution of an inter-local agreement between the County Corrections Department and the School Board, stipulating that Lindsey Hopkins would provide academic and career/technical education for inmates of County Corrections Department, because the program is targeted for the school where she is employed, and involves similar services to those provided by the Commissioner. (JC)
17-224	directed to Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat § 286.011 AGO 81-42 AGO 74-47	Shelley Stanczyk, Concerned Citizens of Old Cutler, Village of Palmetto Bay	A group of local citizens is not a public board subject to the Sunshine Law, Fla. Stat., Section 286.011. However, a local citizen group should avoid acting as a liaison among Councilmembers of a public board, through communications from the group that provide details of conversations of its members with Councilmembers regarding upcoming issues, where more than one Councilmember is a recipient of the communication. (JC)
17-225	(c)(2), (d), (g), (m)	Gloria D. Kelly, G Kelly's Enterprises, LLC	The spouse of a County employee may contract with the County through her privately-owned company, but she may not contract with the Miami-Dade County Information Technology Department that employs her spouse; her spouse, the County employee, may not lobby the County for the contract; may have no involvement in determining the contract requirements; and shall not be involved in the contract in any way. (GDG)
17-226	(e)	Gerald Sanchez, Esq., Assistant County Attorney, Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office (CAO)	The County Ethics Code does not prohibit the Mayor and member of the BCC from acceptance of an unsolicited complimentary lunch provided by AT&T, a County vendor, at a press conference held with the Governor to advise the public concerning Hurricane Irma where the lunch is not provided to affect any governmental decision that may be taken by the recipients, .but only as a courtesy while FPL is working with County officials on hurricane-related issues. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-227	(s)(2)(d)	Brian Schoonmaker, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	Lobbyists should keep track of when their COE ethics training course lapses because the renewal requirement is based on the jurisdiction (County or City of Miami) where the individual lobbies. (RT)
17-228	(c)(2), (d), (g), (h)	Melvin Avant, Sergeant, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation (MDCR)	A Sergeant with MDCR may contract with the County through his privately-owned company, but he may not contract with MDCR, the department that employs him, and may not lobby the County for the contract. (RT)
17-229	(w), (e)(1)	Julian Guevara, Municipal Manager, Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works	County employees who are attending the Microsoft Envision Conference in Orlando may accept complimentary registration for the conference and need not report the registration as a gift because they are participating in a panel discussion or presentation at the conference, and would, therefore, qualify as non-paying registrants due to that involvement; the employees do not play any role in the oversight of the Microsoft contract with the County; and the County will be paying all travel-related expenses for the conference. (JC)
17-230	(s)(1)(b)	Robert Meyers, Esq., Weiss Serota Helfman Cole Bierman P.L	An individual who represents a condominium association before a government body, and does not receive compensation or reimbursement for the appearance, is not required to register as a lobbyist because the Ethics Code excludes from the definition of lobbyist any person who only appears as a representative of a neighborhood association without compensation or reimbursement. (JC)
17-231	(e)	Gerald Sanchez, Esq., Assistant County Attorney, Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office (CAO)	Donation of 5,000 portable housing units to the County, by a private company, in relief for those who have been displaced from their homes by Hurricane Irma, does not violate the Ethics Code because the units will be used solely by the County in furtherance of official County business; and the donation will not, in anyway personally benefit a County official or employee interacting with the company in connection with the donation. (JC)
17-232	(j), (k), (g), (h), (m)	Althea Gardiner, Training Specialist II, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation (MDCR)	A County employee for MDCR's Training Bureau's may accept outside employment as an adjunct professor at Miami-Dade College (MDC), a County vendor, because her public duties as at MDCR and her job responsibilities as an adjunct professor teaching Psychology and Human Growth and Development courses are not closely related and would not conflict. (RT)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-233	(g) directed to Miami-Dade County Resolution R-736-07 & Fla. Stat. § 112.3135	Luis Cuellar, Shelter Program Coordinator, Miami-Dade County Animal Services Department (ASD)	The County Ethics Code does not contain a Nepotism provision that would prohibit the hiring of the first cousin of a division director in the department, but since the County Nepotism Policy encourages department directors to refrain from maintaining relatives in close proximity in a departmental subunit, certain guidelines should be followed to avoid the hiree from close connection with the County employee in the hiring process or supervision on the job. (RT)
17-234	(s)	Matthew Bobys, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP	A person or entity intending to lobby in a municipality that has no lobbying ordinance is required to register pursuant to Section 2-11.1(s) of the County Ethics Code. (MP)
17-235	(d)	Dennis C. Moss, Miami-Dade County Commissioner, District #9	A County Commissioner, following his retirement as Executive Director of the Richmond-Perrine Optimist Club, a non-profit organization that receives funding from the County, and severs ties with the Club, may vote and participate in matters that directly affect the Club because he would no longer be an officer of the Club, and would not, directly or indirectly, profit or be enhanced by a BCC action affecting the Club. (JC)
17-236	(j), (f), (g), (h), (m)(2), (k)(2) RQO 16-02	Elizabeth Shannon, Assistant Curator, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens (Vizcaya)	The assistant curator at Vizcaya may accept outside employment as an adjunct professor at Florida International University (FIU), a County vendor, because her public duties at Vizcaya and her job responsibilities as an adjunct professor teaching a World Art History Survey 1 course are not closely related and would not conflict. (RT)
17-237	(d)	Frank Quesada, Commissioner, City of Coral Gables	A City of Coral Gables Commissioner, whose law firm has filed a lawsuit against FPL, may not vote regarding any law suit or settlement of legal claims against FPL by the City related to FPL's hurricane performance issues because both his law firm's lawsuit, in which the Commissioner has a financial interest, and the City's lawsuit, stem from the same underlying issues. However, the Commissioner may vote on other matters that concern FPL unrelated to issues raised in the lawsuits. (JC)
17-238	(m)(1), (h), (g) RQO 16-03	Motsa Dubois, Senior Systems Analyst Programmer, Miami-Dade County Information Technology Department (ITD)	A County employee who serves as a board member for a nonprofit organization must refrain from using his or her position in the County to obtain special benefits for the nonprofit, and is prohibited from appearing before any County board or agency to make a presentation or seek a benefit on behalf of the nonprofit entity. Further, a County employee may not receive any compensation, directly or indirectly, from a third party who has applied for or is seeking some benefit from the County. (RT)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-239	(d)	Rebeca Sosa, Miami-Dade Commissioner, District #6	A County Commissioner employed by the School Board may vote on an item currently before the Board of County Commissioners concerning the County's purchase of property from the School Board because her employment is with a government entity and she will not profit or be enhanced by the vote. (JC)
17-240	(s)	Joshua Heller, Esq., Shutts & Bowen LLP	The County Ethics Code exempts expert witnesses who provide only scientific, technical, or other specialized information or testimony in public meetings from the lobbyist registration requirement. (JC)
17-241	(j), (k), (p), (g), (h), (m) RQO 15-03 RQO 12-11 RQO 99-50	David Frutos, Mosquito Control Supervisor, Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management (DSWM)	Pursuant to sections (j) and (k) of the County Ethics Code, the Mosquito Control Supervisor for DSWM, upon approval by his department director, may provide general pest control services to individuals and entities not located in Miami-Dade County, provided he does not use the County's tools or resources in his outside employment. (RT)
17-242	(d) RQO 15-04	William Tudor, Commissioner, Village of Biscayne Park	A Village of Biscayne Park Commissioner may not vote or participate on a matter that would affect him and a small group of homeowners within the Village because there is a "reasonable possibility" that he would profit or be enhanced by the action of the Village Commission. (JC)
17-243	(g)	Robert Meyers, Esq., Weiss Serota Helfman Cole Bierman P.L	The Village Police Chief is permitted to write a recommendation in support of a United States citizenship application for an individual who owns properties in the Village and occasionally has issues before the Village Council because the Chief has had no previous involvement nor any anticipated involvement in such matters in his official capacity. (JC)
17-244	(s)(1)(b) RQO 08-41	Robert Meyers, Esq., Weiss Serota Helfman Cole Bierman, P.L.	The provision in the lobbyist ordinance at Section 2-11.1(s)(1)(b), exempting from lobbyist registration individuals whose normal scope of employment does not include lobbying activities, applies only to individuals whose actions are limited to non-lobbying activities. (JC)
17-245	(s)(1)(b), (s)(4), (bb)	Lydia Pimienta, Legal Assistant, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole Bierman P.L	A person who lobbies the County on behalf of a nonprofit community-based organization, on matters other than grant funding, whether paid or unpaid, must register to lobby but is not required to pay the lobbyist registration fee. However, he or she is required to complete the lobbyist ethics training course within 60 days of registering, and pay the fee for the course. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-246	(w), (e)(3)	Tara C. Smith, Director, and Jose Galan, Assistant Director, Internal Services Department (ISD)	The Director and Assistant Director of ISD may accept travel-related expenses from the British Consulate-General Miami for their attendance at a Public Private Partnership (3P) conference in London, England, because the British government is not a County vendor; the expenses will be paid by a government entity; and their attendance at the conference would fulfill a valid educational purpose and provide a benefit to the County. (JC)
17-247	(d)	Jose Alvarez, Commissioner, North Bay Village	A North Bay Village Commissioner may vote on items related to the local Optimist Club, of which he is a member, because he would not be directly affected by the vote and he does not have any of the enumerated relationships with the entity appearing before the Village Commission. (JC)
17-248	(c), (d), (n), (g), (h)	Oliver Gilbert, Mayor, City of Miami Gardens	The spouse of the newly married Mayor of the City of Miami Gardens may continue to service the existing contract (but not renew the contract) that she has with the City through her company EcoTech Visions, Inc (ETV). However, the Mayor may not vote or otherwise participate in any issue or matter regarding ETV's existing contract with the City and should delegate his authority to deal with matters regarding ETV to another appropriate individual, such as the Vice Mayor or City Manager. (JC)
17-249	(j), (k), (g), (h), (m), (k)(2) AO 7-1	Jose Burgos, Field Test Engineer, Miami Dade Department of Transportation and Public Work (DTPW)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, a Field Test Engineer at DTPW does not have a conflict of interest involving his work as the owner of Decom, an engineering, construction and management services company, because his outside employment is unrelated to his County duties and would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties. (GDG)
17-250	(d)	Miriam Ramos, Esq., City Attorney, City of Coral Gables	Section (d) of the Ethics Code concerning voting conflicts of interest applies when City/Village Commissions sits in either a legislative or a quasi-judicial capacity. (JC)
17-251	(j), (g)	Connie Leon-Kreps, Mayor, North Bay Village	The Mayor of North Bay Village, who is also a professional nurse consultant, may accept an offer to assist as a nurse consultant/case manager in a Workers' Compensation case involving an elected official from another municipality because her outside employment is unrelated to her duties as Mayor and would not impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties. (JC)
17-252	(q), (s) RQO 12-09	Michael Grieco, Former Commissioner, City of Miami Beach	Pursuant to the two-year rule, a former Commissioner of the City of Miami Beach may not lobby or attempt to influence any official decision in the City of Miami Beach during the two-year period except where he is employed by a governmental, non-profit or educational entity, and lobbies for the entity in the course of his official position. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-253	(b)(9), (g)	Joseph Kelley, Senior Telecommunications Technician, Miami-Dade Information Technology Department (ITD)	Pursuant to Section (b)(9) of the Ethics Code, a County employee's father-in-law, aunt, uncle, and cousins, are not limited by Section (c) of the Ethics Code from transacting business with the County, because father-in-law, aunt, uncle, and cousin are not included in the definition of "immediate family member" in the Ethics Code. However, the County employee may not use his official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or others. (GDG)
17-254	(m)(2) directed to City of Miami Code § 2-653	Mr. Brodsky, City of Miami Finance Committee	A lobbyist and member of the City of Miami Finance Committee may not appear to represent or lobby on behalf of any third party before the committee on which he serves. (MP)
17-255	(g), (h)	Alice Arguelles, Construction Manager 3, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD)	No conflict of interest exists under the Ethics Code where a WASD employee is temporarily assigned by the County to work with a County vendor, Vizcaya Museum & Gardens Trust, because the temporary assignment to Vizcaya is not likely to impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her duties at the County. (MP)
17-256	directed to Miami-Dade County Code §2-11.38	Dotie Joseph, Esq., Member, Miami-Dade County Black Affairs Advisory Board	A member of the County Black Affairs Advisory Board may also serve on the County Charter Review Task Force because the County Charter Review Task Force is not a County Board under Section 2-11.36.1(a), Miami-Dade County Code, since its existence is limited to a period of less than one year. (JC)
17-257	(j), (k) RQO 14-03	Dorothy Moljo, Personnel Specialist 2, Miami-Dade Internal Services Department (ISD)	A County employee who serves in the United States National Guard is not engaged in outside employment. (GDG)
17-258	(j), (k)(2), (g), (h)	Lashawna Lewis, Police Records Specialist, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitations Bureau	A County employee does not engage in conflicting outside employment by working as a mail handler for United States Postal Services (USPS), a County vendor, because she has no involvement or authority over the USPS contract with the County in her public position, and her outside employment would not impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties. (RT)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-259	(e)(3) RQO 00-111 RQO 06-05	Damarys Isler, Executive Assistant to Deputy Director of Operations, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD)	A County employee may act as a coordinator and solicit donations for two fundraising drives that have the explicit endorsement of County government, and involve participation by all County departments; however direct solicitations of County vendors or contractors should be avoided. (JC)
17-260	(c), (g), (m)(1)	Amy McClellan, The Key Clubhouse of South Florida	The Key Clubhouse of South Florida, a not-for-profit, does not need to obtain an opinion from the Ethics Commission prior to entering into a contract with Miami-Dade County because the organization's board members who are County employees and/or their immediate family members have no ownership interest or financial interest in The Key Clubhouse of South Florida. (RT)
17-261	(v)	Amado Gonzalez, A/E Consultant Selections Coordinator, Miami-Dade County Internal Services Department (ISD)	A member of the selection committee for a County Water and Sewer Department project, does not have a voting conflict even though her former employer, Wolfberg/Alvarez and Partners, is a vendor for this project, because her employment with Wolfberg/Alvarez and Partners ended over 20 years ago and she has no current employment or other relationship with her former employer or fellow employees. (JC)
17-262	RQO 17-02	Julio Amoedo, Pro Service Group, LLC	The Ethics Commission role in organizational conflicts of interest (OCI) is limited to approval or disapproval of the measures implemented by the County to resolve or mitigate the conflict; the determination as to whether an OCI exists is made by the County officer or department handling the procurement. (MP)
17-263	(j), (k), (g), (h), (m), (k)(2) AO 7-1	George Poulos, Chief of Security, Miami- Dade County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Department (PROS)	A County employee does not engage in conflicting outside employment by working as a part-time instructor for Miami-Dade College School of Justice (MDC), a County vendor, because he has no involvement or authority over MDC's contract with the County in his public position; he has no involvement in the selection, oversight, management or administration of PROS training vendors; and his outside employment would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties. (MP)
17-264	(q)	Stanley H. Beck, Tax Counsel, Property Tax Consultants, Ltd.	A former employee of the County's Property Appraisal office may appear at Value Adjustment Board hearings prior to the expiration of the two-year period covered by 2-11.1(q) because appearances at quasi-judicial hearings are an exception to the two-year rule. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-265	(s)(3)(a)	Abbie Schwaderer-Raurell, Assistant County Attorney, Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office (CAO)	Section 2-11.1(s)(3)(a) of the County Ethics Code, which exempts a public officer, employee, or appointee, who in his/her official capacity engages in lobbying activities, from the lobbyist registration requirements, would permit County staff members working on a grant agreement with an outside entity approved by the BCC, to meet with interested individuals including BCC members without registering as lobbyists. (JC)
17-266	(c), (d), (m)(2), (v)	Johnny Farias, Electrical Masters Inc.	A Community Council member may contract with Miami-Dade County through his privately owned company, Electrical Masters, Inc., but he may not enter into any contract if the board on which he serves is involved in the selection, oversight, or administration of the contract. (GDG)
17-267	(j), (k), (f), (g), (h)	Morgan Harris, Pre-trial Services Officer 2, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department (MDCR)	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest involving his employment at the County and his work as a musician for New Birth Cathedral of Faith International, a County vendor, because his outside employment would not impair his independence of judgment in the performance of his public duties. (RT)
17-268	(e) RQO 06-05	Joanna Revelo, HR Manager, Miami-Dade County Children's Trust	County staff may solicit donations for fundraising drives that have the explicit endorsement of County government, however direct solicitations of County vendors or contractors should be avoided. (JC)
17-269	(s)(5)	Christian Robichaud, S-B USA	Pursuant to Section (s)(5) of the Ethics Code, no person may appear as part of an oral presentation team before a County certification, evaluation, selection, technical review or similar committee, on behalf of an individual or firm unless he or she has been listed as part of the firm's presentation on an affidavit (Appendix D of the procurement package) which must be filed with the Miami-Dade Clerk of the Board. (GDG)
17-270	(s)	Roberto Martinez, Esq.	An attorney who represents Pinnacle Housing Group, in a federal criminal matter, does not need to register as a lobbyist in order to meet with County officials, including the Mayor, because he was not retained to influence any decision on the part of the County; and any meeting he may have with County officials comes at the request of the Mayor, to provide information that is peculiarly within his knowledge and expertise based on his representation of his client in the federal criminal matter. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-271	(m)(2)	Oscar J. Braynon, Member, Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT)	A member of CITT may represent and lobby for engineering firm, EBS Engineering, in connection with a competitive selection process for services because he has no financial or ownership interest in EBS Engineering; and the contract that EBS is seeking is administered by the Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER), and has no connection to the CITT or the transportation surtax. (JC)
17-272	(j), (g), (d)	David Williams, Councilman, City of Miami Gardens	A City of Miami Gardens Councilman may accept employment at Carol City Senior High School (CCSHS) even though he has donated funds from his City office budget to the school in the past because the last donation was made approximately four years ago. However, he was cautioned against making future donations to a school where he has a paid employment position, due to the possibility that his independent assessment of the most appropriate use of such public funds may be affected by his employment interests at the school. (JC)
17-273	(t) <i>directed to</i> City of South Miami Code No. 03-17-2273	Thomas Pepe, City Attorney, City of South Miami	The City of South Miami Code's Cone of Silence provision applies to a competitive bid issued by the South Miami Community Redevelopment Agency because the City's ethics code specifies that the code will apply to autonomous boards such as the community redevelopment agencies. (GDG)
17-274	(d)	Manny Cid, Mayor, Town of Miami Lakes	The Mayor of the Town of Miami Lakes may vote on awarding a contract by the Town to Rodriguez Trueba and Company for Independent Auditing Services because there is no relationship between the Mayor and the firm in question; and as the Mayor has completely severed ties with the adult day care that employed the firm, there appears to be no reasonable possibility that the Mayor would profit or be enhanced by voting on the item now before the Council. (JC)
17-275	(e)	Mark Roberts, Special Projects Administrator, Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER)	The County Ethics Code does not prohibit a County employee from accepting an unsolicited educational outreach tour of the Everglades which includes a sandwich lunch, provided by Baptist Hospital, because this is an education event that is consistent with County purposes and would serve a legitimate public purpose to educate decision makers and employees in the County on an environmental issue of importance to the County. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-276	<i>directed to</i> Citizens' Bill of Rights	Robert Meyers, Esq., Weiss Serota Helfman Cole Bierman, P.L.	An elected official who provides false information regarding residency may be in violation of the Miami-Dade County Citizens' Bill of Rights, Section (A)(2), as well as other applicable statutes and ordinances. (JC)
17-277	(d)	Victoria Mendez, Esq. City Attorney, City of Miami	A City of Miami elected official who is employed by a law firm as "of counsel" may not vote on an item if another attorney in the firm that employs him is appearing before and lobbying the City Commission on behalf of the firm's clients because the elected official may be considered an "employee" of the private law firm, which is among the relationships specifically referenced in Section (d) of the Ethics Code as creating a voting conflict if the entity in question "would or might be directly or indirectly affected" by the action; he may not vote if a client of the law firm that employs the elected official appears before City Commission and is being represented by another firm in the specific matter before the City Commission because actions taken by the elected official may directly or indirectly affect the client's relationship with the elected officials employer law firm; and he may not vote on an item if another attorney from the same law firm that employs the official is representing a client of the firm in litigation adverse to the City of Miami because there is a reasonable probability that the elected official "would or might" profit or be enhanced in his relationship with the firm. (JC)
17-278	(g)	Jose Villalobos, Esq., City Attorney, City of West Miami	A City Commissioner running for re-election is not prohibited from wearing a T-shirt identifying the person as a City Commissioner while engaged in political campaigning when the T-shirt is used for identification purposes and not in an attempt to gain any special privilege. However, the Commissioner would be prohibited from using his title or City identification to exert any official authority or pressure regarding voting. (JC)
17-279	(c)(3), (m)(2)	Enid Demps, Councilwoman, Miami-Dade Community Council #15	A Community Councilwoman who is also the executive director of The Optimist Foundation of Greater Goulds, a non-profit that is receiving grant funding from the Miami-Dade Office of Management and Budget (OMB), would not have a prohibited conflict of interest because the Community Council on which she serves is not involved in any aspect of the grant funding that the non-profit receives from OMB. (RT)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-280	(j), (k), (f), (h)	Vivian Calvet, Personnel Specialist 2, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department	Pursuant to Sections (j) and (k) of the Ethics Code, an MDCR employee does not have a conflict of interest involving her employment at the County and her work as a Zumba instructor for Fitness International, LLC, a County vendor, because she does not have any involvement in the selection, oversight, or administration of the County contract with Fitness International, LLC, and her outside employment would not impair her independence of judgment in the performance of her public duties. (RT)
17-281	(v)	Julie Whiteside, ISD Procurement Management, Miami-Dade Internal Services Department (ISD)	A member of the selection committee for a County Transportation project, does not have a legally recognized voting conflict that would prevent her from serving on the committee even though her former employer, Corradino Group, is a listed vendor for the project, because her employment with the Corradino Group ended over 10 years ago. However, she is not required to serve on the committee should she have any concerns that her prior connection with the Corradino Group would affect her objectivity and ability to judge all applicants fairly. (JC)
17-282	(d)	Connie Leon-Kreps, Mayor, North Bay Village	The Mayor of North Bay Village may vote on an upcoming item regarding the Village taking over the guard house on North Bay Island where she is a resident, because she would not personally profit or be enhanced, directly or indirectly by the vote because her interest in the affected measure is less than 1-2% of the entire number of affected residents; and she does not have any of the enumerated relationships with the entity appearing before the Council. (JC)
17-283	(c)	Deborah Nunez, Miami Children's Initiative	The Miami Children's Initiative (MCI), a not-for-profit, does not need to obtain an opinion from the Ethics Commission prior to entering into a contract with Miami-Dade County because the organization's board members who are County employees and/or their immediate family members have no ownership interest or financial interest in MCI. (RT)
17-284	RQO 17-02	Pablo Valin, ISD Procurement, Miami-Dade County Internal Services Department (ISD)	Pursuant to RQO 17-02, following the disclosure of an organizational conflict by a prospective contractor, or the discovery of such a conflict by County personnel, the department involved is to conduct its own inquiry into the conflict issue, and come up with a plan or some mechanism to deal with the conflict. The plan of action to deal with the conflict is submitted to the Executive Director of the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust for approval. If the County department does not agree with that decision, it may appeal the decision of the Director to the full Commission on Ethics. (JC)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-285	(e)	Daryl Hildoer, P.E., ENV SP, Engineer 3, Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW)	The County Ethics Code would not prohibit a County employee from accepting a cake from a County contractor provided that the cake is worth significantly less than \$100, the gift was not solicited by the County employee, and the gift was given out of personal respect or friendship and was not related to the performance or non-performance of a public or lawful duty by the county employee. However, the County employee was advised to return the gift because the beginning of any gift-giving relationship between a government contractor or consultant and a public servant with whom the contractor has business interactions is to be avoided because it may lead to more significant integrity concerns. (JC)
17-286	(v)	Michael Kosoko, Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)	A MDAD employee who serves as a member of the selection committee for a County Aviation project, does not have a voting conflict that would prevent him from serving on the committee even though he oversees, SP Plus Corporate, the parent company of SP+ Corporation, a respondent on this project, because he has no prohibited relationship with the respondent corporation, nor would he be personally or directly affected by the procurement decision. (JC)
17-287	(x)	Evelyn Campos, Director, Professional Compliance Division, Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)	Under the reverse two-year rule, an individual that is currently employed by a MDAD contractor, C & W Facilities (CW), may apply for the position of MDAD Terminal Operations Chief (TOC), and if selected, may perform the duties and responsibilities of TOC as long as he does not engage in any contract-related duties involving CW for two years. (MP)
17-288	(w), (e)	Hydi Webb, Manager, Cruise Development, Miami-Dade Seaport	PortMiami staff may attend the naming ceremony for MSC Cruises' newest vessel, MSC Seaside, because there is no travel-related expense being provided by a County contractor as the ship will not sail away from the port; and attending the event is not prohibited by the gift provision of the Ethics Code as the PortMiami's staff attendance is consistent with their duties at the County. (JC)
17-289	(s)(2)(d)	Alicia Lewis, Esq., Greenspoon Marder P.A.	The lobbyist ethics course should be completed within 60 days of initial registration as a lobbyist, or must be completed prior to an individual engaging in lobbyist activities thereafter. (GDG)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-290	(c), (d)	Joseph Kelley, Senior Telecommunications Technician, Miami-Dade Information Technology Department	The spouse of a County employee may contract with the Miami-Dade Community Action and Human Services Department through her privately owned company G Kelly's Enterprises, LLC, but she may not contract with the Miami-Dade Information Technology Department (ITD) that employs her spouse; the spouse County employee may not lobby the County for the contract; he can have no involvement in determining the contract requirements; and none of his job responsibilities and job descriptions shall require him to be involved in the contract in any way. (GDG)
17-291	(e)	Evelyn Campos, Director, Professional Compliance Division, Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)	A County employee who attended an annual industry workshop on behalf of the County, and was selected as a winner of a certificate covering the registration fees for the workshop, received a reportable gift and must file a gift disclosure because the value of the registration fees is greater than \$100. (MM)
17-292	(i) <i>directed to Miami-Dade Code Section 2-11.36.1(a)</i>	Traci Pollock, Special Projects Administrator II, Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT)	Members of MDEAT Board action committees that operate for a period of one year or more, are required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to Section (i) of the County Ethics Code. (GDG)
17-293	(e)	Kathey Jones, Human Resources, Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)	Individuals who file a State Form 1, are required to disclose gifts in excess of \$100 on a quarterly basis by completing State Form 9 with the Florida Commission on Ethics no later than the last day of the calendar quarter (i.e., March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31) for gifts received during the previous calendar quarter. Persons who file the local financial disclosure form, the Source of Income Form, file the local Quarterly Gift Disclosure form for any gift received from an individual or single entity during the previous calendar quarter and valued in excess of \$100 with the County Clerk of the Board no later than the last day of the calendar quarter (i.e., March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31). (GDG)

INQ #	County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 Precedent, or other as noted	Requester	Holding
17-294	(j),(k)	Lydia Lopez, Assistant to Senior Advisor Michael Spring, Office of the Mayor, Miami-Dade County	Senior Advisor to the Mayor, Michael Spring, and Deputy Mayor, Ed Marquez, who were both appointed to the Frost Museum of Science Board to represent the County's interests, are not required to disclose their County employment on a form generated by the Frost Museum Conflict of Interest Policy, because their County employment is already disclosed by virtue of their appointment and did not create a conflict of interest intended to be disclosed on the board's disclosure form. (JC)