

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 3:37 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: FW: INQ 17-272 David Williams, Councilman, City of Miami Gardens (Conflicting Outside Employment, Exploitation, Voting Conflicts)

[INQ 17-272 Williams](#)

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 3:22 PM
To: 'dwilliamsjr@miamigardens-fl.gov' <dwilliamsjr@miamigardens-fl.gov>
Cc: 'Sdickens@miamigardens-fl.gov' <Sdickens@miamigardens-fl.gov>; Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <Martha.Perez2@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>
Subject: INQ 17-272 David Williams, Councilman, City of Miami Gardens (Conflicting Outside Employment, Exploitation, Voting Conflicts)

Dear Councilman Williams,

This is in response to your recent inquiry concerning possible issues under the County Ethics Code in connection with your position as a City Councilman in the City of Miami Gardens and your position as a paid part-time Intervention Specialist at Carol City Senior High School (CCSHS), a public educational facility located within Miami Gardens. You have advised that you have had a long-term relationship with CCSHS in the past as a volunteer in connection with the school's science programs, particularly with its science lab. You have also donated or raised funds for the science equipment there, including donating funds from your City office budget to the school. The last time you made such a donation from your City budget occurred approximately four years ago. Recently, you accepted a part-time position at the school, which involves your working with academically challenged students. You have indicated that on some occasions you intend to bring the students into the school's science lab for "hands on" exposure to science.

As a public official you need to always be careful to keep your personal, private interests, including your employment at CCSHS, separate from the exercise of the powers and duties of your public office. Any attempt to utilize public resources for personal interest or benefit could constitute Conflicting Employment under Section 2-11.1(j) or Exploitation of Official Position under Section 2-11.1(g) of the County Ethics Code. I see no problem with your having accepted a position at a school where you have donated public funds in the past, particularly since the last donations made from your office account occurred about four years ago. However, I would caution you against making future donations to a school where you now have a paid employment position, due to the possibility that your independent assessment of the most appropriate use of such public funds may be affected by your employment interests at the school. Further, while you did not indicate whether the use of such office funds by any City Councilperson comes before the City Council, your voting on any issue coming before the City Council that could affect your position at CCSHS could create a voting conflict of interest under Section 2-11.1(d), necessitating that your recusal. Your employment at CCSHS would not, however, preclude you from donating your office funds to worthy projects at other schools, provided that the donation could have no effect on your position at CCSHS.

You have also asked whether there might be an issue raised in connection with your involvement in finding a location for the annual elementary school science fair, that is open to all elementary schools in Miami Gardens. I understand that, for the past seven years, the science fair has been held at the City of Miami Gardens Recreation Center gymnasium. This year, due to a conflict with other activity at the gymnasium, you would like to arrange for the science fair to be held at CCSHS. In this latter instance, I see no problem with your doing so, since your employment relationship with the school

lies outside of your public duties with the City. Also, I don't think there would be a problem with your making such arrangements for the science fair to occur at a public facility of the City in the future, as long as the fair only involves elementary schools with which you have no employment relationship, and has no effect on CCSHS. However, I would advise against your involvement in any effort to specially provide City facilities for the school where you are employed.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Joe Centorino

Joseph M. Centorino

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