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March 30, 2005

The Honorable Dorothy Johnson
 City Commissioner, City of Opa-Locka
 777 Sharazad Boulevard
 Opa-Locka, FL 33054

Sent via Fax on
 3/30/05
 [Signature]

Dear Commissioner Johnson:

I am in receipt of a fax you sent me dated March 30, 2005 and I wanted to provide you with a timely response. In your fax you mention that you are a City Commissioner in Opa-Locka and the Founding President and CEO of The Portrait of Empowerment, Inc. – a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Furthermore, you indicate that you do not receive a salary with the organization and your position confers you no voting rights. You also state that the organization recently moved its operations and is now a tenant at Town Center One. You have some recollection that your new landlord (Town Center One) requested an easement from the City in April 2002 and this request was granted. However, you state the Town Center One easement matter came back before the City Commission at your last workshop meeting and you did not vote.

You now seek an opinion inquiring about whether you can participate in and vote on the easement issue involving Town Center One. According to the County's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, which is applicable to elected municipal officials in Miami-Dade County, a voting conflict is created when an elected official has a special relationship (usually financial in nature) with a party having a matter before the elected official's council/commission or if the elected official stands to uniquely benefit from the decision that his/her commission reaches. In your case, there is no special relationship created because the item your landlord has in front of the City Commission has nothing to do with your lease. Additionally, the decision of your Commission to grant or deny the request for an easement does not uniquely benefit you or your non-profit agency located in the landlord's building. Therefore, no conflict of interest exists and you can participate in discussions and vote on the Town Center One easement question.

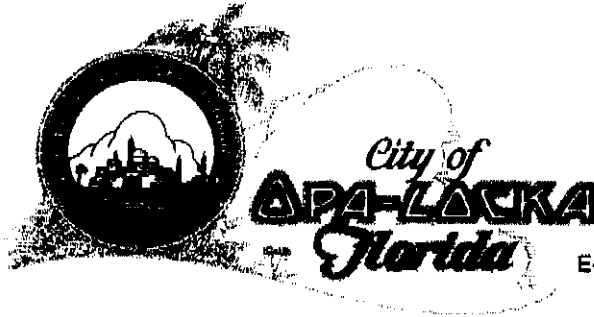
If you would like to discuss the above with me in greater detail, do not hesitate to contact me at (305) 350-0613.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
 Robert Meyers
 Executive Director

"A COMMUNITY OF BROTHERHOOD AND SISTERHOOD"

DOROTHY "DOTTIE" JOHNSON
Commissioner
March 30, 2005



Office: (305) 953-2805
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Ethnic Commission
Attn.: Robert

My name is Dorothy Johnson. I am a Commissioner in the City of Opa-locka. If you recall last summer an issue arose, which was very embarrassing for me as well as my family. First of all, I am the Founding President & CEO of **The Portrait of Empowerment, Inc. (501 C3) founded 2000**. I have NO voting rights, non-salary and the organization is governed by the Board of Directors.


In order to avoid a reoccurrence, I am requesting a written reply to an issue I was challenged at the last commission meeting. Recently, **The Portrait of Empowerment, Inc.** became a tenant at Town Center One, 780 Fisherman Street, Suite 328 in Opa-locka.

In the last commission workshop allegations were made that I do not feel comfortable by voting. Since the organization, I founded had recently moved in Town Center, I excused myself from voting because of the prior allegations and prior incident (2004 Summer).

If a recall correctly Town Center was requesting a street easement approval, which appeared to me granted and executed back in April 2002, prior to my tenure. Please consult with Quinn Jones III, City Attorney for clarification of the Town Center agenda item. I await patient for decision in writing. Please feel free to fax to me at 305 688-1694.

Should you have any questions and/or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 786 229-2921. Your assistance in this endeavor is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Dorothy "Dottie" Johnson, FM, CM, GCDF, ODP
Commissioner
City of Opa-locka

Miami-Dade County
Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

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19 West Flagler Street,
Suite 207
Miami, Florida 33130

Phone: (305) 579-2594

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Fax
Fax

To: Commissioner Dorothy Johnson From: Robert Meyers

Fax: (305) 688-1694

Pages: 2

Phone:

Date: 3/30/05

Re: Request for opinion CC:

Urgent

For Review

Please Comment

Please Reply

Please Recycle

Per your request. Please call me if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Robert Meyers

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