

JNO 06-46

Meyers, Robert (COE)

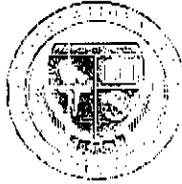
From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2006 11:46 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Inquiry

I spoke to Javier Marques on March 17, 2006 concerning the question the Chairman had about flying on a private jet to attend a meeting of the Board of Governors in Tallahassee on March 23rd. The facts are that Florida International University and its Board of Trustees invited Chairman Martinez to join a delegation of community leaders and leading citizens to support FIU's proposal for a medical school. The presentation will be before the Board of Governors. The invitation, signed by the president of FIU and Sergio Pino, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, offers to provide private transportation to and from Tallahassee at no cost to the invited guests. The Chairman wants to know whether he can accept this offer. Private transportation is in the form of a corporate jet that Century Homebuilders Group owns – Sergio Pino is its CEO and President of Century. Century Builders is a registered lobbyist in Miami-Dade County.

There is a public purpose in the Chairman of the County Commission attending this meeting, as the residents of Miami-Dade County will ultimately benefit if a public medical school is located in Miami-Dade. Thus, Chairman Martinez can spend money from his budget for travel and other related expenses to be part of the delegation. It would be improper for the Chairman to fly on the Century Homebuilders private jet for this purpose. Due to the fact that Century lobbies before the County Commission and under state law it could be a violation for him to accept a gift from a lobbyist in excess of \$100, I recommended to Mr. Marques that Chairman should fly commercially to and from Tallahassee. I conferred with the County's Attorney Office and Mr. Greenberg agreed with this opinion.

Robert Meyers

3/22/2006



Florida International University

Board of Trustees

March 16, 2006

The Honorable Joe A. Martinez
Chairman, Miami-Dade County Commission
1401 NW 107 Avenue
Suite 600M
Miami, FL 33174

Dear Chairman Martinez,

On behalf of Florida International University and its Board of Trustees, we extend a cordial invitation for you to join our delegation on a special mission to attend the meeting of the Florida Board of Governors in Tallahassee on Thursday, March 23rd, 2006.

As you are aware, the Board of Governors is considering a proposal by FIU to establish a public medical school in Miami-Dade County. The educational, economic, and cultural impact of this project on our community cannot be underestimated. We will be joined by other leading citizens of our community and we believe it is critical to have you as a member of our delegation at this meeting.

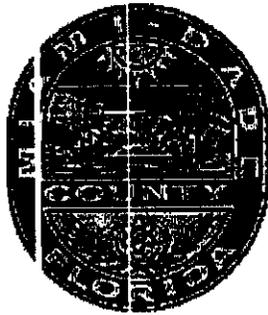
Private transportation will be provided to and from Tallahassee at no cost to you.

The meeting on March 23rd will be a pivotal moment for Miami-Dade County and we strongly believe that your participation as a member of our delegation will enhance our presence and represent our community well.

Since:

Sergio Pino
Vice Chairman, FIU Board of Trustees
CEO and President, Century Homebuilders Group

Modesto A. Maidique
President
Florida International University



Joe A. Martinez
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners
District 11

To: Dr. Robert Meyers
Fax Number: (305) 579-0273
Date: 3/17/06 Number of Pages including Cover Sheet: 2
From:

~~E~~ Joe A. Martinez
Chairman

- Ter I. Marques
Chief of Staff
- Lorena Guerra
Executive Secretary
- Ter Abolila
Deputy Chief of Staff
- Shira Kastan
Director of Policy/Legislation
- Daniel Orbis, Jr.
District Administrative Assistant
- Maittee Manoah
Administrative Assistant
- orgette Nahon
Community Liaison
- Mavis Marin-Larocca
Administrative Assistant
- e Diaz
District Coordinator
- Arcadio Martell
Special Assistant
- tte Breto-Barros
Administrative Assistant

Comments: RE: FILE BOARD ON TRUSTEES
President's Ofc: (305) 348-2111
Sergio Pino's Ofc: (305) 599-8100